FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-187
Wednesday
26 September 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-187 *26 September 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

Fourth General Congress of Islamic Call Resumes *[JANA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Sources Deny Plan To Replace 'Arafat *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 1
DFLP 'Revolutionary Wing' Condemns Saddam *[Riyadh TV]* 1
PLO on Right To Defend Palestinians in Gaza *[Algiers VOP]* 2
PLO Holds UN Contacts on Zionist Practices *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
Fatah's Khalaf on Palestinian Leadership, Gulf *[Algiers Radio]* 2
Hawatimah Calls for Front To Hit U.S. Interests *[INA]* 3
Egyptians Implicated in Anti-Palestinian Acts *[Baghdad VOP]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FLN Leader Mehri Comments on Party Renewal *[APS]* 4
Army Chief of Staff Appoints Military Chiefs *[Algiers Radio]* 4

Egypt

More Troops Dispatched to Saudi Arabia *[MENA]* 4
Iraqi Military Attache Leaves With Family *[MENA]* 4
Egypt Reportedly To Train Kuwaiti Resistance *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 24 Sep]* 4
Ugandan President Makes Stopover in Cairo *[MENA]* 5
Saudi Foreign Minister Meets 'Abd-al-Majid *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Delivers Fahd Message to Mubarak *[SPA]* 5
Departs Cairo After One-Day Visit *[MENA]* 5
Al-Sharif on Media Coordination With Riyadh *[MENA]* 5
Amir of Kuwait, Mubarak Exchange Cables *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Ghali Condemns Israel's Actions in Gaza Strip *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak Aide Abu-Ghazalah Leaves for U.S. *[MENA]* 6
Sudan Asked To Hand Over Opposition Leaders *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 24 Sep]* 6
Chinese Geology Official Leaves After Talks *[MENA]* 7
Chinese Delegation Arrives for Two-Week Visit *[MENA]* 7
Nuclear Energy Officials Return From Vienna *[MENA]* 7
Abu-Talib Meets Again With Libyan Officers *[MENA]* 7
Telecommunications Agreement Reached With Libya *[MENA]* 7
Wafd Party Leader Opposes U.S.-Led Alliances *[AL-WAFD 18 Sep]* 7
Scholar Critical of Muslims Who Support Saddam *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Sep]* 8
King Husayn's 'Disgraceful' Actions Condemned *[AL-NUR 12 Sep]* 9
Ensuring of Post-Crisis U.S. Withdrawal Urged *[AL-WAFD 19 Sep]* 10
Column Urges World Focus on Israeli Actions *[AL-AHRAM 21 Sep]* 10

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Supportive Soviet Message *[Tripoli TV]* 11

JANA Editor on Remarks by Former U.S. Envoy 11
Congress Official Meets With Jordanian Speaker *[Tripoli TV]* 11

Morocco

Cabinet Approves Privatization Measures *[MAP]* 12
'Istiqlal' Party Leader on Sahara, Gulf Issues *[MAP]* 12

Sudan

RCC Member Asks Leaders To Contain Crisis *[SUNA]* 12
RCC Member on Arab 'Difference in Views' *[SUNA]* 12
SPLA Air Raids on Southern Cities Reported *[MENA]* 13

Tunisia

Two Loan Agreements Signed With World Bank *[Tunis Radio]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir Receives U.S. Marine Commander Gray *[WAKH]* 14
Prime Minister Receives 'Abd-al-Majid Message *[WAKH]* 14

Kuwait

Amir Leaves for UN General Assembly Session *[SPA]* 14

Qatar

Defense Minister Receives Chevenement Letter *[WAKH]* 14

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Comments on Soviet Relations *['UKAZ 18 Sep]* 14
London Arab Paper Comments *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Sep]* 15
'UKAZ Lauds USSR Stance on Gulf Crisis *[16 Sep]* 15
Cabinet Discusses Arab Stances on Gulf Crisis *[Riyadh TV]* 16
Salaries of Palestinians in Country Frozen *[Jerusalem AL-SHA'B 22 Sep]* 17
Holy Mecca Radio Decries 'Prohibited Deeds' 17

United Arab Emirates

Bangladesh President Ershad Arrives 22 Sep 17
Agenda Previewed *[WAKH]* 17
Denounces Occupation of Kuwait *[WAKH]* 17
Holds News Conference *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 18
Meets Shaykh Zayid, Departs *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 18
President Receives Message From Romania's Iliescu *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 18
Message From Argentina's Menem *[WAKH]* 19

Yemen

Salih Anniversary Address Discusses Gulf Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Salih Receives Messages From Bush, Gorbachev *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Salih Cables Fahd Congratulations on National Day *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Al-Bid Speaks on Yemeni Evacuees, Gulf Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Al-Dali Leaves for UN General Assembly Session *[Sanaa Radio]* 21

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Letter to America 26 Sep *[INA]* 22
AL-TADAMUN Interviews Tariq 'Aziz *[London 24 Sep]* 29
Food to Vietnamese Hostages To End 1 Oct *[AFP]* 33
Palestinian Front Leader Reiterates Support 34
TV Interview *[INA]* 34
Meets Ramadan *[INA]* 34
Ramadan Reiterates Call for Arab Dialogue *[APS]* 35
Ramadan Cited on Gulf Crisis, U.S. *[INA]* 35
Ramadan Receives Tunisian Islamic Leader *[INA]* 35
Saddam Receives Islamic World Union Leader *[INA]* 36
Vietnamese Minister Concludes Visit, Departs *[INA]* 36
Assembly Speaker Receives French Society Head *[INA]* 36
Ibrahim Chairs Agricultural Production Meeting *[INA]* 36
Governor Views Agricultural Yield, Cultivation *[AL-JUHURIYAH 18 Sep]* 37
Factory Reports on Fodder, Dairy Production *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 18 Sep]* 37
Agriculture Minister Encourages Fishing in South *[AL-'IRAQ 18 Sep]* 38
Agriculture Ministry Urges Self-Sufficiency *[AL-'IRAQ 19 Sep]* 38
Northern Governorates Report Volunteers *[Baghdad Radio]* 38
Minister Leaves for Havana Nonaligned Conference *[INA]* 39
Minister Describes Education Plans for Kuwait *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 18 Sep]* 39
Papers Denounce Ban on Asiad Participation *[INA]* 39
AL-IRAQ Calls French Stance Racist *[INA]* 39
AL-THAWRAH Says Unity With Kuwait 'Irrevocable' *[INA]* 40
Paper Warns Mubarak of Al-Sadat's Fate *[INA]* 40

ISRAEL

U.S. To Give Unconditional Loan Guarantee *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Levi To Tell Baker Peace Process Must Wait *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Sep]* 41
IDF Intelligence Chief on Post-Crisis War *[HA'ARETZ 26 Sep]* 41
Commentator Sees Gulf War Inevitable *[HA'ARETZ 25 Sep]* 42
Arens on UN Embargo, Al-Burayj Measures *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
More on Al-Burayj *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 43
Al-Burayj Curfew Remains in Force; General Strike *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Netanyahu Sees Change in Soviet Mideast Policy *[MA'ARIV 26 Sep]* 45
CSFR Possible Transit Point for Soviet Jews *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Histadrut Threatens Action Against Economic Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45

LEBANON

Army Instructed To Blockade 'Awn-held Areas *[RFL]* 46
'No Objection' to Handover *[VOL]* 46
'Awn Units Attack Lebanese Forces Positions *[VOL]* 46
Cabinet Discusses Reforms, Al-Huss Trip to U.S. *[Beirut Radio]* 46
British Envoy Denies Contacts with Fadlallah *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Amal Denies Reports on Curfew in Iqlim al-Tuffah *[Beirut Radio]* 47

SYRIA

Al-Asad Returns From Iran With Accords *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Gulf Crisis Solution Agreed to With Iran *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives With Fahd Message *[Damascus Radio]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Blast Near Kabul TV Station; Tanks in Streets *[AFP]* 50
Troops Deploy in Kabul, Block State Buildings *[AFP]* 50

India

Gujral Favors New UN Initiative in Gulf Crisis *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Strikes, Violence Mark Antireservation Agitation *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Gandhi Demands Resignation of Prime Minister *[Delhi TV]* 51
Seychelles President Arrives for Three-Day Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Initiative To End Sri Lankan Fighting Urged *[Delhi International]* 52

Iran

Events Relating to Visit by Syria's Al-Asad 52
'Text' of Joint Communique *[SANA]* 52
Presidents Comment on Talks *[IRNA]* 55
Al-Asad Discusses Visit, Departs *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Call for Worldwide Anti-U.S. Demonstration *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Khomeyni Says No Pro-Western Faction in Country *[IRNA]* 58
IRGC Commander Says U.S. Plundering Wealth *[IRNA]* 58

Pakistan

Prime Minister Departs for Two-Day Gulf Visit *[Islamabad International]* 58
Bhutto's Husband Ordered To Appear in Court *[AFP]* 58
Case Filed Against Bhutto's Father-in-Law *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Court Nullifies Dissolution of NWFP Assembly *[AFP]* 59
Seven Killed, 14 Hurt in Explosion Near Sialkot *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Islamic Affairs

Fourth General Congress of Islamic Call Resumes

LD2609084990 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, al fateh 26, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The sessions of the 4th. general congress of the Islamic Call, being held under the slogan "the Islamic Call and the future prospect" which coincides with the celebrations of the 28th. anniversary of the establishment of the World Islamic Call Society (WICS), were resumed yesterday morning at that al Imad complex in Tripoli. Participants in the congress are debating many issues related to the future of the Islamic Call in the world amongst which are "the Muslims on the door steps of a new century", "changes in the world and their effect on the Islamic world", and "the Islamic Call in the past years of calling for the sake of Allah and the great achievements it accomplished to serve Muslims and Islam".

Yesterday's morning session was allocated to talking on the march of WICS since its establishment until now. On reports of WICS activities on the past 20 years, the speaker explained that one year after the launching of the great al Fateh revolution, its leader the Muslim revolutionary Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was preparing for a big Islamic gathering to study the means and ways to awaken the Islamic society and make it stand from its fall. He saw that such a thing can not be achieved except by reviving the Islamic Call once more.

That was actually done and the first congress of the Islamic Call was held in Tripoli from 12 to 18 Shawal 1379 after the death of the messenger peace be upon him which coincided with 11 to 13 al Kanoun—December—1970 which was attended by ulama [Muslim clergy] and thinkers from 25 countries from various parts of the Islamic world.

The congress was opened by a speech given by Muslim revolutionary Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he said "this meeting made us feel that there is a Muslim state which adds its potentials to the potentials of the sincere individuals working for Islam. It is doing all it can to enable Muslims to carry out their message on a condition that the banner of Islam is the highest all the time in the period in which the feel fierceness of the attacks on the Islamic World and the Islamic Call".

When the congress's recommendations were issued and had sown their seeds in this great deed and represented the establishment of a general corporation of an independent identity responsible for the call and the establishment of a financial fund in which Muslim governments and nations contribute to pay and spend for this cause, the leader of the revolution took the initiative and issued a law establishing the Islamic Call society.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Sources Deny Plan To Replace 'Arafat

LD2509225190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2120 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, Sept 25 (TANJUG)—Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria intend to replace the present leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), headed by Yasir 'Arafat, the Algerian daily HORIZONS claims today.

According to the daily, the three countries have recently agreed to replace Yasir 'Arafat by one of the two al-Hasan brothers who are "close to the Saudi court". Their most probable candidate would be Hani al-Hasan, a member of the Fatah Central Committee and former advisor to Yasir 'Arafat, who has recently visited Cairo.

Hani al-Hasan is believed to be the "Saudi man in the PLO" and he would have the support of at least five influential members of the Fatah Central Committee, the HORIZONS writes.

In their statement to TANJUG, however, Palestinian sources in Algiers categorically denied as "completely groundless" all reports of alleged divisions in the PLO leadership, blaming the Israeli press for starting the rumour. "The PLO leadership is homogenous", Marwan 'Abd-al-Hamid, a member of the Central Committee and Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the most powerful Palestinian organization, told TANJUG correspondent in Algeria. He added that all the PLO factions shared "identical views of the current crisis on the Gulf and the ways for surmounting it".

Khalid and Hani al-Hasan act within the set policy of Fatah and the allegation that they are Saudi men is a fabrication pure and simple, Marwan 'Abd-al-Hamid added.

DFLP 'Revolutionary Wing' Condemns Saddam

LD2509213690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1916 GMT 25 Sep 90

["Press statement on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti events" issued by an official spokesman of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—"Revolutionary Wing;" place, date not given; from the "State of Kuwait Television message"—ready by announcer]

[Text] O masses of our heroic Palestinian people, O brothers and comrades in the greater Arab homeland: Every year a new day and new events dawn upon us. However, this year differs from previous ones by its events. An important event shook the world's sentiments, namely Iraq's occupation of Kuwait—the peaceful Arab country which enjoyed comfort and tranquillity. This event turned Kuwait and the Arab east into an international arena of conflict, the events of which are taking place on Arab land. Who is the one who started it? Who created this unjustifiable conflict and this unjustifiable serious event? It is Iraq's Saddam.

We have always stressed to the world in our political statements and leaflets that Saddam fabricated events in order to appoint himself as a hero of Arabs; he called himself the Hercules of the Arabs. He fabricated previous events, and he fabricated the Gulf events to create an arena of war and destruction in the greater Arab homeland. We all used to think that Saddam was building and strengthening his army to confront Zionism and regain Palestinian land and Arab pride. Here he is occupying an Arab country, Kuwait, which contributed to help him, and which is contributing to help the PLO. The conspiracy is serious, and there are great changes in the course of international politics toward the Palestinian and Kuwaiti issues, and our Arab nations' issues of destiny. We are still remembering and thinking about these historic changes and turning points.

Our stance vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti issue is firm, unchangeable, and unwavering. We support legitimacy in Kuwait and we are against the tyrant's policy of occupation—which is the same as our stance vis-a-vis Lebanon and legitimacy there. The leadership of the Revolutionary Wing, and all its cadres and fighting units, stand by the brothers in Kuwait until the restoration of legitimacy, led by brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his blessed government. We pledge to you and our Arab people that we will remain loyal to our march of struggle until the treacherous figureheads and the oppressive policy of the tyrant fall. It is a revolution until the liberation of all the Palestinian and Arab national soil.

[Signed] The official spokesman for the Revolutionary Wing.

PLO on Right To Defend Palestinians in Gaza

LD2509203790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The PLO has affirmed that it reserves the right to defend the Palestinians residents [of the occupied territories] if houses are demolished in the occupied Gaza Strip in accordance with the order issued by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens following the death of an Israeli soldier in al-Buraij camp last Thursday [20 September].

In a press statement, brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, information adviser to the brother leader, President Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], said that this measure is a terrorist act and constitutes a very dangerous escalation in the occupied territory which will have dangerous repercussions. He said that the PLO holds the [UN] Security Council responsible for protecting the Palestinians from Israeli terrorism. He expressed regret over the position of the United States, which is covering up Israeli terrorist activities, a matter which increases tension. [passage omitted]

PLO Holds UN Contacts on Zionist Practices

JN2409141690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The PLO has announced that it is taking up with UN delegates and the UN secretary-general the serious situation resulting from the barbaric practices of the Zionist occupation forces against our Palestinian people in the Gaza strip and the West Bank.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President brother Yasir 'Arafat, said in a news statement in Tunis last night that the PLO is making diplomatic approaches on the serious situation in the occupied territory and is exploring ways to counter the terroristic Zionist behavior against the Palestinian people. For the third day running, added Abu-Sharif, Palestinians in the occupied land have been the target of unsurpassed, terroristic, savage onslaughts by forces of the Zionist enemy. He indicated that the occupation troops are using every kind of violence and repression against Palestinians in the overcrowded camps. In addition, they are denying access to the localities where repression is taking place to Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel, and to crews of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Abu-Sharif emphasized that fierce clashes between Palestinians and Zionist occupation troops have now spread to the West Bank districts of Bethlehem and Tulkarm and their camps. He urged the international community to act to end the human rights abuses against Palestinians by the occupation forces, to terminate Zionist occupation of Palestinian territory, and to ensure the enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution No. 492.

Fatah's Khalaf on Palestinian Leadership, Gulf

LD2509184990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] We will stay with the Palestine issue and refer to recent rumors about a move by Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to set up a Palestinian organization parallel and in opposition to the PLO to punish Yasir 'Arafat for his attitudes supporting Iraq.

About this news report and the troubles through which the Palestinian issue is passing these days with some Arab regimes, we conducted a dialogue this morning with Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] the second man in the Palestinian Fatah movement. We started by asking him to comment on the report that there is a tripartite Arab move to set up a Palestinian Organization hostile to the PLO. Mr. Abu-Iyad answered from Tunis:

[Begin recording] [Khalaf] At the time of Camp David, Israel tried with [late Egyptian President] al-Sadat to [create] a substitute but they could not do it. Some Arabs, and Syria in particular, tried to create a substitute leadership and a new liberation organization in 1983-1984. Nevertheless, all efforts failed because our Palestinian people know that they have one organization and one leadership. Subsequently, as those attempts in the past failed, I am sure they will fail in this and other attempts.

[Reporter] Abu-Iyad, therefore, you confirm the existence of such an attempt?

[Khalaf] This attempt took place. I believe that some Egyptians and Syrians met with some leaders of the [Palestinian National] Salvation Front in Syria. To be fair, some of these leaders adopted an honorable stand; they refused to be part of the American position. They refused to create an organization at the expense of the PLO which has adopted an anti-U.S. stance; they adopted a stand within the proper Arab position.

[Reporter] There are some, particularly Algeria, who have been saying in the way of comment on some regimes who tried to punish the PLO because it supported or supports Mr. Saddam Husayn, that the PLO should be kept out of Arab-Arab differences. What is your opinion about the regimes which have now tried blackmail against the sacred issue by expelling Palestinians and stopping funds to the Palestinians?

[Khalaf] I actually believe that the PLO stand, and the Arab stand which demands a political solution, are sound stands. No conspiring Arab quarter can strike or isolate the PLO. We are confident in the Palestinian stand and also in the Arab stand, which follows a sound course like the stand of Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco generally. And also the stand of Jordan, Yemen, and Sudan—all these stands—we know their effects and bases. They represent the Arab conscience.

[Reporter] Mr. Abu-Iyad, the Belgian foreign minister recently made a statement at a meeting of the EEC foreign ministers. He accused the PLO of coordinating with the Iraqis to resettle Palestinians in Kuwait. What is your answer to this accusation?

[Khalaf] Despite all the attempts, we did not carry arms in Kuwait. We did not accept carrying arms in Kuwait at all. We have been offered resettlement more than once in more than one place. Our Palestinian liberation has one homeland, namely, Palestine. If they resettled them in the world's paradise, they would never accept anything except Palestine. This [accusation] is one of the campaigns. In times of crises these accusations are always leveled at us. We, as I already said, will not accept anything except Palestine as our homeland.

[Reporter] Mr. Abu-Iyad, a last question, if you permit me. With reference to the assassination of one of the Zionist soldiers in the al-Burayj camp [in the Gaza Strip] recently, Israel is getting ready to commit a horrible massacre against the Palestinian citizens there, but it appears that the PLO has taken a decision to summon an important meeting at the level of the United Nations and the Security Council. It appears that the Security Council is preoccupied a great deal with the Gulf crisis and has forgotten your issue. What is your comment on this UN stand?

[Khalaf] I believe that Israel is trying to exploit the Gulf crisis to embark on striking our people inside the occupied land. What happened has begun implementation a new repressive policy. They have killed hundreds in the small al-Burayj camp which is inhabited by no more than 3,000 Palestinians. They widened their strike yesterday morning and also last night. The dead and wounded are now in the hundreds. They are enforcing a blackout on all that is taking place in the Strip. This is an exploitation of the Gulf crisis and diversion of people's attention to this crisis so that they implement all their barbarous new methods. For our part, we lodged a complaint with the Security Council and regrettably, right up to this moment, the Council has not met to discuss this complaint or discuss Israel's new measures. Through Algerian radio we [draw] the attention of Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion to these massacres which Israel has been committing, exploiting the Gulf crisis, and maintaining a news blackout concerning them. [end recording]

Hawatimah Calls for Front To Hit U.S. Interests

JN2509115590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has called for the establishment of an Arab popular front to strike at U.S. interests if Iraq is exposed to aggression.

In an interview published by the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today, Hawatimah stressed the need simultaneously to link the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The DFLP secretary-general affirmed that the first step toward Arabizing the Gulf crisis lies in the withdrawal of the foreign invasion forces from the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf.

Hawatimah added that imperialism must understand the language of peoples because the masses are moving in accordance with a prepared program to besiege and strike at U.S. interests in the Arab countries. He said that the land and oil are for our people, for our development, and for bringing the victory of the intifadah closer.

Egyptians Implicated in Anti-Palestinian Acts

JN2509153790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi have disclosed that the Egyptian leadership, upon the directions of the Zionist intelligence agency, Mosad, is employing cruel tactics against Palestinian, Jordanian, and Sudanese citizens in the United Arab Emirates. The latest such tactics, according to the sources, is the distribution of leaflets and the painting of slogans by Egyptian intelligence in a manner suggesting that the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Sudanese were the perpetrators, with the aim of inciting authorities in the United Arab Emirates against these citizens. The sources stressed that Qatari authorities have arrested three Egyptians in the Qatari neighborhood of al-Wakrah, a Palestinian-populated area, while painting slogans. One of them was an employee of the Egyptian Embassy in Qatar. When questioned, they confessed that the Egyptian ambassador had instructed them to do so.

Algeria

FLN Leader Mehri Comments on Party Renewal

LD2509104790 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 25/9/90 (APS)—The secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party Central Committee, Abdelhamid Mehri, exposed in a press conference Tuesday [25 September] here, the main lines of a project of the FLN Political Bureau related to the renovation of the party.

The renovation of the FLN party, he said, was decided well before the elections of June 12, namely during the ordinary session of the FLN Central Committee on [as received] March. This operation which concerns all the FLN structures, has become a necessity so as to enable the FLN to be up to the evolution of society. The project, he said, includes five phases. The first phase concerns the reinforcement and the renewal of the FLN human component. The second stage concerns the democratic election of the FLN officials.

As concerns the third phase, it will consist in the election of mouhafadhas (regional delegations). The fourth phase concerns the holding of a national conference to debate a number of questions. These various steps will be crowned by the holding of an ordinary or extraordinary session of the Central Committee according to circumstances in order to determine the latest phases of renovation. Following Mehri's intervention, a debate took place between the FLN party secretary general and the journalists. The debate mainly centered about the expulsions of some militants from the FLN ranks and the possible existence of some opposition within the FLN and its press to reforms. In this context, Mehri said that there are not many who wish to come back to the unique party but the point is that the passage from a planned economy to a market economy poses some problems, mainly at the social level.

Army Chief of Staff Appoints Military Chiefs

LD2509203190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] The chief of staff of the National People's Army, General Abdelmalek Guenaizia, appointed during 10-20 September 1990 new military branch and district chiefs.

These appointments come within the context of the changes in the leadership of the military command which took place last July. Thus, General Guenaizia oversaw the appointment of General Amari Mohamed as commander of the Land Forces; Colonel Boutemime Mohamed Mokhtar as commander of the Air Force; Colonel Eloudi Achour as commander of the Air Defense Forces; Colonel Jaouadi Abdelmajid as commander of the Fourth Military District; and Colonel Guedri Belkacem as commander of the Sixth Military District.

Egypt

More Troops Dispatched to Saudi Arabia

NC2509203190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 25 Sep (MENA)—New components of the Egyptian armed forces left Egypt today by sea and air for Saudi Arabia to reinforce the Kingdom's defense capabilities.

Lieutenent General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, and Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, the armed forces chief of staff, inspected the troops to assess their morale and confirm that they fully understand their missions.

The contingents include mechanized and armored troops.

Iraqi Military Attache Leaves With Family

NC2509145790 Cairo MENA in English 1434 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 25 (MENA)—Iraqi Military Attache Muhammad Mahmud left here today with his family. Egypt had decided a few days ago to close down the Iraqi military office here and gave its members seven days to leave the country. This in reply to reciprocal treatment by Iraqi authorities.

Egypt Reportedly To Train Kuwaiti Resistance

NC2609104790 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Sep 90 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Resistance Training in Egypt"]

[Text] During their recent meeting in Alexandria, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak informed Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad that he approves of Egypt's hosting the Kuwaiti resistance and undertaking to train resistance fighters. He also agreed to assist them militarily, supplying them with light and automatic weapons and having them undergo an intensive training program. This is to ensure the continued operation of the Kuwaiti resistance so that it will not give up or disappear after the first military operation should it be confronted by large numbers of Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister asked President Mubarak to attach some Kuwaiti resistance leaders to Egyptian army units in order to benefit and learn from Egyptian expertise in practice. President Mubarak rejected this request and told the Kuwaiti minister that he will ask his Defense Minister Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib to assign a number of Egyptian military commanders and to designate some military areas away from Egyptian army units to handle this task, provided this is done in complete secrecy and without anyone's knowledge.

Ugandan President Makes Stopover in Cairo

NC2609084290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Ugandan President and OAU Chairman Yoweri Museveni left Cairo this afternoon following a short stopover at the airport while en route to the United States.

He was seen off by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Dr. Ghali stated that he will meet with the Ugandan president in New York during the UN General Assembly session to coordinate Egyptian and Ugandan stands on the issues before the United Nations, particularly African issues which include the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute, racial discrimination in South Africa, and other issues affecting our region. He added that the Ugandan president will be embarking on an effort to resolve African issues in his capacity as the OAU's current chairman.

Saudi Foreign Minister Meets 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2509141390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today. They discussed current developments in the region, bilateral relations, and preparations for holding the third session of the joint Egyptian-Saudi committee in Cairo in November, which is to be preceded by a meeting of the preparatory committee in Riyadh in October to follow up bilateral relations.

The joint committee was formed in accordance with an agreement between President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd during the custodian of the two holy mosques' visit to Egypt in March last year.

Delivers Fahd Message to Mubarak

LD2509063590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2350 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, announced that he conveyed a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt.

His highness explained in a statement he made this evening after being received by President Mubarak, that the message is within the framework of continuous coordination and consultation between the two leaders, during this catastrophe that has fallen on the Arab nation, pointing out that continuous consultation and coordination are necessary in this framework.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was asked about the option now available and whether there are chances for peace or if the war option still stands. He said: I have always said the war option was taken by the Iraqi leadership when it invaded an independent Arab country.

His highness added: The whole world has taken a united stand against the Iraqi invasion and occupation of the state of Kuwait.

His highness went on to say: There is hope after the emergence of this international stand, which was built on the basis of rejecting aggression and insisting on legitimacy. This stand ought to have an effect on the decision of the Iraqi leadership to accept the resolutions of the Security Council.

He described the stand of the Iraqi leadership on the occupation of Kuwait, saying it has not changed and it is a stand against legitimacy and against civilized behavior and coexistence among nations.

Departs Cairo After One-Day Visit

NC2509145590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this afternoon following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. He delivered the message during an audience with the president yesterday, Monday.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Saudi Ambassador to Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr saw him off at the airport.

Al-Sharif on Media Coordination With Riyadh

NC2509150790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 25 sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said there is continuous coordination between Egypt and Saudi Arabia at the ministerial level as seen in his contacts with Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir. He added that there is also integration between and exchange of policies and information programs to confront the Gulf crisis through the exchange of visits by senior media officials of both countries.

Al-Sharif made this statement after a working session with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at Cairo's International Airport prior to the Saudi foreign minister's departure. They discussed information coordination between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and preparations for the Islamic countries' information ministers conference, due to be held in Cairo by the end of this year. Saudi Ambassador in Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr attended the session.

The Egyptian information minister asserted that this coordination aims to support the Arab right and enhance the respect for the principles of legitimacy and sovereignty of the region's states. He said the information integration between the two countries seeks to ensure a

conscientious information presence that provides facts and explains Arab and international stands, as well as to uncover deceptive claims, proceeding from the fact that the Arab people have the right to know developments of events in detail.

He noted that, within this framework, the informtion message is being gradually developed in form and content. He said an information delegation representing all Egyptian media has left for Saudi Arabia and will visit the Egyptian armed forces positions there.

Replying to a question on reports about the preparations to establish a radio station in Cairo beamed at Iraq, he pointed out that the Egyptian media do not resort to such theatrical information ploys as others do. The Egyptian radio, with its many powerful frequencies and various networks, performs its role competently to enlighten Arab public opinion everywhere according to a scientific policy, logical and reasonable (? dialogue), a confident tone, truth, and openness to the world.

He said Egyptian radio conducts its mission in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy, which Egypt enjoys, with participation from the masses and shapers of public opinion in making decisions compatible with President Husni Mubarak's historical stand in confronting the crisis and foiling the conspiracy. This conspiracy, he added, sought to occupy new lands and to threaten the security and stability of fraternal Arab peoples and countries after the occupation of Kuwait and displacing its people.

Amir of Kuwait, Mubarak Exchange Cables

NC2509152590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a cable from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, as the amir was crossing Egyptian airspace on his way to New York. Following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, may God keep him: On behalf of the accompanying delegation, it is my pleasure to extend to his excellency the brother my sincere heartfelt wishes as I cross the airspace of the dear land of Kinana [Egypt]. I take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Kuwaiti people deep gratitude to the fraternal Egyptian people for their historical stand with their fraternal Kuwaiti people in their plight after the unjust Iraqi invasion of their national land and legitimacy. I wish the dear brother good health and happiness and the Arab people in dear Egypt every progress and prosperity.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak responded with a thank you cable.

Ghali Condemns Israel's Actions in Gaza Strip

NC2509144490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has strongly condemned the Israeli occupation authorities because of their repressive actions and measures after the recent incidents in the Gaza strip.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that these repressive measures, which include collective penalties and the torture of Palestinians, blatantly violate human rights and the UN resolutions.

Ghali added that there is no justification for these actions which escalate the situation and increase tension in the area. He emphasized that Israel is wrong if it imagines that the Gulf crisis with all its ramifications will divert Egypt's attention from what is going on in the Palestinian territory.

Mubarak Aide Abu-Ghazalah Leaves for U.S.

NC2609105190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the president of the Republic, left Cairo for Washington this morning to participate in the economic talks that the Egyptian delegation is holding there with the IMF and the World Bank, and also in the talks on military debts.

Dr. Ashraf Ghurbal, former Egyptian ambassador in Washington, left Cairo several days ago to join the Egyptian delegation to these talks.

Sudan Asked To Hand Over Opposition Leaders

NC2609085090 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Sep 90 p 11

[Text] The Egyptian foreign ministry recently summoned the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo and asked him to urge his government to hand over the Egyptian opposition figures who have been residing in Sudan since early 1990. The opposition figures include a number of religious groups leaders like Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and his followers.

The Egyptian government's step comes in the wake of information that the Sudanese government has allowed the opposition to set up a training camp for some Egyptian religious groups. The information indicates that the Sudanese government has granted a villa to Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in western Sudan which will also be used by certain leaders of the Islamic groups in Algeria and Tunisia.

'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a leader of extremist religious groups in Egypt, left Cairo in early March on a visit to Sudan and other Arab countries. But he did not return to Cairo after having been granted permanent residence in Sudan in his capacity as one of the Egyptian opposition

figures. The Sudanese Government also has invited his fellow members to reside in Sudan.

Chinese Geology Official Leaves After Talks

NC2209132590 Cairo MENA in English 1120 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 22 (MENA)—The Chinese deputy minister of geology and mineral resources left here today for home, after week-long visit.

He had talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals Resources, on means of boosting bilateral cooperation in the field of prospecting for oil and other minerals.

He also paid visits to the Egyptian oilfields, the Petroleum Research Institute and the geological museum.

Chinese Delegation Arrives for Two-Week Visit

NC2409210790 Cairo MENA in English 2045 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 24 (MENA)—A Chinese economic delegation arrived here tonight, headed by the chairman of the Higher Committee for Reforming the Chinese Economic Structure, on a two-week visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy premier and minister of planning.

The delegation is to visit projects of the public sector and a number of the factories of Ramadan 10th City to exchange expertise between the two countries.

Nuclear Energy Officials Return From Vienna

NC2409061890 Cairo MENA in English 2229 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 23—(MENA)—Chief of the Nuclear Energy Authority Dr. Fawzi Hammad and the chief of the Nuclear Materials Authority, Dr. Hasan 'Abd al-Latif, returned here this evening coming from Vienna. During their visit to Austria, they participated in the Congress of the Nuclear Energy Agency, held in Vienna from September 17 to 21.

Dr. Hammad said the conference agreed on a resolution demanding the subjecting of the Israeli nuclear facilities to the agency guarantees system. The conference also discussed the use of nuclear energy in desalination of water in the Middle East region.

Abu-Talib Meets Again With Libyan Officers

NC2609105690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, received today Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Latif Ahmad al-Shakshuki, chief of staff of the Libyan naval forces, and the Libyan military delegation which is currently visiting Egypt under Staff Col. Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Wanis, head of the Libyan Popular Army's training department.

Issues relating to cooperation between Egypt and Libya in various military fields were discussed at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the naval forces; assistants to the defense minister Major General Husni Sulayman and Maj. Gen. Salah Halabi; and Maj. Gen. Hitler al-Tantawi, the defense ministry's secretary-general.

Telecommunications Agreement Reached With Libya

NC2509153590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—It has been decided to link the wire and wireless telecommunication networks in both Egypt and Libya, to extend a railroad line linking al-Sallum and Tobruk in preparation for a full railroad network between the two countries, to strengthen the existing road network in order to facilitate the movement of individuals and products, and to promote and organize maritime transport between the two countries.

This was decided during the final session today between Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; and Engineer Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Shamikh, secretary of the Libyan people's general committee for communication, transport, and maritime transport. Members of the two delegations attended the meeting.

Wafd Party Leader Opposes U.S.-Led Alliances

PM2509101190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Mun'im Husayn, chairman of the Wafd Party National Security Committee: "No to Military Alliances"]

[Excerpts] U.S. interest in the Middle East started with the discovery of oil in the Gulf region early this century. World War II gave the United States the opportunity to enter the region with its allies. By the end of 1945 they were in control of the region and occupying its oil fields. Since then the United States has given itself a huge responsibility in the region with the aim of protecting it and trying to include it in its zone of influence, so that it would not throw itself into the Soviet Union's arms in view of the hostile feelings of the region's peoples toward the Western camp. And Egypt led the rejection movement against subservience and the policy of military alliances which the United States tried to establish in the region.

Egypt under the Wafd government abstained from voting on the Korean problem at the Security Council on 30 June 1950. It also rejected the Middle East defense organization plan submitted by the United States, Britain, France, and Turkey in 1951 following the Wafd government's unilateral abrogation of the 1936 treaty.

And that was an extension of the strong popular rejection of the 1946 joint defense plan. [passage omitted]

So we can see that for half a century now Egypt has fought to protect its political independence and free will against Western and U.S. attempts at containment. Thus it is unreasonable that Egypt should today accept the establishment of military alliances in the region or allow foreign forces to stay on its territory or any other Arab territory, thus threatening its security and that of the Arab.

And while Egypt called for the 9 August extraordinary Arab summit conference which endorsed Saudi Arabia's legitimate right to request U.S. forces to defend it following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, this does not mean that the presence of these forces would be accepted after the Gulf crisis ends and Iraq withdraws from Kuwait.

And if the United States still insists on making regional security arrangements to bolster peace and stability in the region, in order for these arrangements to be accepted by the region's people, it must reexamine its policy toward the region's people and build bridges of trust with them by abandoning the policy it has pursued since its adoption of the line of absolute support for Israel's imposition of hegemony over the region. Especially now that the Gulf crisis has proved there is no need for any Israeli role. The United States must know that regional stability can only be achieved by investing Arab money inside the region. This is with the adoption of the democratic system of administration in the region's countries.

Scholar Critical of Muslims Who Support Saddam

PM2509155990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 90 p 18

[Interview with Shaykh Mohammad al-Ghazali, prominent Muslim scholar, by Muhammad al-Hashemi al-Hamidi in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hamidi] What is your opinion of the disputes taking place among many Muslims over resolving the raging sedition in the Gulf?

[Al-Ghazali] In fact there is a defect in the Islamic mentality. It is clear that the cause of all that has happened is Saddam Husayn. He entered and occupied Kuwait, thus threatening the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by his action. Some say that the entry into Kuwait is a minor question, that the threat to Saudi Arabia is a trivial matter, and that the abominable crime is the foreign forces' arrival to aid the oppressed seeking help. That logic is promoted by Muslims in some Arab countries. But we in Egypt realize the reality of the situation. What makes Saddam insist on staying in Kuwait? If he really abhors the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf—and we all reject the establishment of foreign bases in all our Arab countries—how about withdrawing himself from Kuwait and joining his armies to Saudi Arabia's armies and our forces in Egypt, so that we all close ranks and fight anyone who commits aggression against us? Saddam Husayn is not the oppressed one in the Gulf issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hamidi] Let me list the arguments of those who differ from your views: They believe that condemnation of what happened to Kuwait becomes insignificant in view of the U.S. forces' arrival in the region.

[Al-Ghazali] If the Iraqi president is really preoccupied with that matter, he can eliminate it by moving out of Kuwait just as he moved out of the Shatt al-'Arab. The matter needs no ingenuity: He occupied Kuwait in 24 hours, so he can move out of it in 24 hours. And he would become a hero if the United States refused to move out, and if people hesitated to move it out.

The Americans say that they will leave the region immediately after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. That is what they have announced several times. Nevertheless, I may think badly of them and say that they have exploited the opportunity to camp in the region against the Arabs' and Islam's interests. The poor opinion of them exists, and is required. But how can you eliminate their justification and excuse? That can only be done through an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Al-Hamidi] Shaykh al-Ghazali, what is your opinion of the Mulsims who pin their hopes on rulers and leaders like Saddam Husayn to achieve victories to serve any of Islam's objectives? Can Muslim reason seek a service for Islam from a ruler whose history is stained with Iraqi, Iranian, Kurdish, and other blood?

[Al-Ghazali] Saddam has killed 1 million Shiites and 100,000 Kurdish Sunni Muslims. Besides, the Ba'th Party's history in the countries that it rules is one of murder and bloodshed. No one is unaware of this. And it is impossible for any Arab or Islamic unity to materialize without the Islamic means introduced by the first proponent of the message [the prophet Muhammad], may peace and prayers be upon him. Good deeds cannot be done by corrupt means. That cannot be accepted at all.

[Al-Hamidi] Some say that if we condemned the invasion of Kuwait we would be supporting the United States.

[Al-Ghazali] I support the proponent of the message, as he heeded an appeal in al-jahiliyah [the pre-Islamic era] demanding justice for the oppressed when he said of 'Abdallah Bin-Jad'an's [early Muslim] alliance: If it called me to Islam, I would respond. So why we are requested today to keep silent about the injustices which some of us commit against the others?

Anyone who believes in what you said is promoting demagoguery and flattering people. Our adversaries adhere to logic and arrange the results for their ideas, whereas the Islamic mentality has no logic and wants their results to be achieved through desire, wishes, and nonsense. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hamidi] These people say that we should not condemn the invasion of Kuwait because the Americans were coming anyway, with or without it.

[Al-Ghazali] If we think that way, the Americans could have come 20 years ago. Why did they not come? What made them come now, when the situation was completely normal before 2 August? Indeed, why do we not say that the United States has removed some traitors from its list of friends to provide it with an opportunity to enter. Think naturally: When a crime takes place in a certain area, people ask about the beneficiary. So what has happened now, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait? Palestine's cause has been harmed, the intifadah has been eclipsed, and fragmentation has spread among Arab ranks. Are Israel and the United States not the first beneficiaries? Who has done all that? Is it not Saddam Husayn? That action was taken in the interests of the Israelis, and those among us who have served them are companions of Satan. Satan arouses scruples in his companion's mind and drives him into the shackles of evil. [passage omitted]

King Husayn's 'Disgraceful' Actions Condemned

JN2109202990 Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic
12 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed article: "King Husayn, the Chameleon of the Arabs"]

[Text] The crisis brought about by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has exposed the despicable stands of some Arab leaders and politicians. These stands are a true expression of their hostile intentions and insincerity toward their national, Arab, and Islamic duties on some fateful issues. This crisis has revealed the double roles that these leaders are shamelessly and proudly playing.

One of these leaders who, very regrettably, belongs to Arabism and Islam, is the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, who is now touring the entire world to convince it that Haddam [Arabic for destroyer, alluding to Saddam] Husayn's invasion of Kuwait, his expulsion of people, his violation of people's honor, and his contempt for man's dignity are absolutely justified.

The Jordanian monarch wants to change the whole world's conception and evaluation of the violent Haddam Husayn invasion. The king openly declares that the entire world wronged Haddam Husayn by imposing on him an economic, military, and naval blockade, and that all these foreign forces in Saudi Arabia are confronting this innocent child, Haddam Husayn. We are really amazed by the actions of this Jordanian ignoramus [English for jahil—the Arabic word for monarch is 'ahil].

For our part, we were not surprised by the contacts that the Jordanian ignoramus held at this stage. He visited the Yemeni and Sudanese capitals because the new Jordanian endeavors are based on the principle of the fait accompli created by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Therefore the Jordanian monarch was trying to gather Arab and world support for a formula based on recognizing this fait accompli. However, the entire world bases its position on rejecting the new reality created by the Iraqi invasion.

The Jordanian ignoramus is unaware of the changes of the era in which he lives. He is ignorant of the simplest rules of the international game, which depends on intermingling relations and interests among nations. Had the Jordanian ignoramus known this he would have immediately realized that his endeavors were wrong, returned to his senses, and tackled the problem from another angle commensurate with the view adopted by the entire world. But he took the difficult path despite the fact that he is in an unenviable position because of his economic difficulties and his proximity to the Jewish tiger that is lying in wait to invade his territory at the opportune moment.

And because the ignoramus of Jordan is unaware of these facts and because his mind is incapable of absorbing them, he toured the world to present his mistaken views, sacrificing his dignity and royal prestige. Everywhere he went, he received harsh answers, but he was so blind that he failed to understand.

We tell the Jordanian monarch: When will you end the double role you are playing with your brothers and friends? Are these the dictates of your religion? Are these the principles of nationalism and Arabism? Is this the way kings behave? Why do you assume a different color for each occasion like a chameleon, and don a different apparel for each circumstance?

We will not forget your crooked methods with the PLO before and after Black September [1970], and how harshly and fiercely you dealt with it. Why do you stand now in the same trench with the PLO in order to wage a battle that is bound to be a losing one?

We will not forget your position last month at the emergency Arab summit conference in Cairo when you rejected the proposal that some Arab leaders go to meet with Saddam Husayn to convince him to accept a peaceful solution and to withdraw from Kuwait. Now you defend Saddam's position and stand against the Arabs.

We will not forget your despicable stand toward President Mubarak and your lies against the Egyptian people when you spread a rumor in the world that Mubarak foiled the holding of a minisummit in Saudi Arabia to discuss the crisis from the beginning. You know who caused the failure of this summit.

We will not forget your heroic stands toward our sons who fled Haddam Husayn's hell in Iraq and Kuwait, and how you closed the border in their faces so they might die in the desert of hunger and thirst and meet their fate in an Arab Islamic territory at sinful, mean hands. We will never forget your stands, O Jordanian monarch, and we will tell them to our children and grandchildren. We will

record them in history books so our grandchildren will know who the faithful is and who the traitor is.

Finally, we will not forget your attempts to hamper Egyptian reactions to and rejection of the Iraqi invasion, and to delay issuing a statement by the Arab League emergency session "in order to give a chance to calm political discussions" as you claimed. Everybody knows that all your moves were exposed attempts aimed to gain time for Iraq. Your actions, O Jordanian monarch, are disgraceful and sooner or later, you and your capricious gang will know what vicissitudes your affairs will take. [Koranic phrase]

Ensuring of Post-Crisis U.S. Withdrawal Urged

PM2509135190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
19 Sep 90 p 5

[Article by Lawyer Salih Muhammad Hasan: "What Happens After the Gulf Crisis?"]

[Text] This crisis is bound to end sooner or later, and we pray it will end with the fulfillment of rights and the rectification of the situation through the elimination of the Iraqi military and political presence in Kuwait, in the context of a peaceful solution agreed upon by the Arabs through soul searching, recourse to conscience, and putting the general interest above political considerations and above the individual interests of the Arab states.

The issue of the foreign military presence in the Gulf region is, in the view of some Arabs, one of the first, if not the first, issue which should be tackled in the process of rectifying the situation.

Whatever the justifications and needs which brought about that presence, there is some justified fear that the military presence might be used as a means of influencing the Arab will and steering it in the direction of serving foreign interests. Such fear is enhanced by two significant factors in the Arab arena. The first is that some of the states which have contributed to this military presence have strategic political and economic interests which run contrary to Arab interests. Politically, the big powers that are part of the military presence have links with Israel, which rejects all just peaceful solutions, and do not take a firm stand to compel Israel to take the right course even though they have the means to do so. The attitude of these states, even if not to be seen as an alignment with Israel, is in conflict with Arab interests. Economically, these big powers which have a military presence, have major economic interests in the Arab region. The two main aspects of these interests are the massive quantity of oil they obtain from this region, and the massive deposits in their banks—hundreds of billions of dollars, estimated at 650 billion—in addition to the economic projects in these countries.

The only guarantee of the fulfillment of these big powers' interests lies in weakening the Arab states and sowing disputes and divisions among them, and feeding individual interests rather than promoting the general interests of these states.

We should look further, to the time after the Gulf crisis is resolved with the restoration of rights, even with the help of foreign forces. What will our attitude to these states be then in relation to the question of their continued presence after the crisis? What position would we take if these states used their military presence as a means of pressure to draw new policies and create new situations in the Arab region?

First of all, it is not enough to talk or ask about the reason for the presence of foreign forces. Yes, the reason was Iraq's brutal invasion of Kuwait; but is it sufficient just to know the reason without discussing our Arab future?

The U.S. secretary of state's recent statements have increased fears about that future. A responsible official has said before a U.S. Senate committee that the United States sent its forces not to protect the regimes in the region, but to protect its own interests and that, even after Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, these forces will stay to ensure security through some form of alliance with the Gulf states. One concludes from this that they would have in those states military bases that would not only provide military protection, but would be an instrument for imposing certain policies on the Arab states. History provides the best evidence of that.

Perhaps one solution to this likely problem is to give the military presence of all the states which have sent forces a UN umbrella by putting all these forces under a command attached to the Security Council through the military committee mentioned in the UN Charter. A resolution should be passed stipulating that the mission of these forces is temporary and subject to the termination of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Such a resolution would close the door to forces maintaining their presence in the Gulf region. At the same time, the Arab states which oppose the Iraqi aggression should, through the Arab League Council or through individual decisions, declare that the presence of foreign forces is temporary, that the task of these forces is to end the Iraqi aggression, and that they [the Arab states] will not join in local alliances with non-Arab states in the present circumstances or after the elimination of those circumstances.

With these two measures—a resolution attaching the foreign forces to the United Nations and placing them under UN command, and an Arab states resolution that these forces are there temporarily and will not be party to any pact with any state—the Arab masses would feel reassured about their future and would feel that no foreign influence will obstruct the Arab nation's progress.

Column Urges World Focus on Israeli Actions

JN2409202490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
21 Sep 90 p 5

[Column by Muhammad Salmawi: "The Forgotten Wounds"]

[Text] Arab wounds have recently increased to the extent that a new wound would have us forget a previous one, whose anniversary may fall without our remembering it or having any guilt feelings for forgetting it.

A few days ago the eighth anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and arrival at its heart, Beirut, occurred without drawing any part of Arab attention. Here is an aggressive country storming the borders of a secure country and going as far as it wished to go without being confronted by Arab or foreign troops. Here is the invasion, lasting for eight full years, without international security seriously endeavoring to force the aggressor to abandon the law of the jungle, respect international legitimacy, or implement the UN resolutions in this regard.

However, Israel, which 15 years earlier occupied half of another neighboring state—Jordan—hanged its name from the West Bank to Judaea and Samaria, and then officially announced the annexation of holy Jerusalem and made it the capital of the Jewish state, knew in advance that it would be able to realize its goal in view of Arab negligence and the ignorance of the international parties.

Hence, more than 20 years have passed now without the world paying much attention to the presence of invasion forces on the land of a neighboring country and the annexation of that country's territories. The anniversary of Israel's invasion of another country, Lebanon, then falls and passes quietly, just as the anniversary of its occupation of the West Bank and the holiest of the holy sanctities, Jerusalem, has passed.

Do we then have the right to ask the Arab world to try, at least, to take advantage of the current circumstances and the sudden awakening of the world community to stress the need to respect legitimacy and implement the international resolutions in order to direct international attention at other Arab wounds that have been forgotten in the recent past? Or are we asking too much?

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Supportive Soviet Message

LD2509211590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] The Soviet leadership has expressed its appreciation for the efforts which are being made by the brother leader in order to solve by peaceful means the crisis in the Arab Gulf region. In a message addressed to the brother leader, the Soviet leadership pointed out that it will take these efforts into consideration in any Soviet step concerning the containing of the Gulf crisis. The Soviet leadership also expressed its readiness to support the Libyan call for the convening of an extended session of the UN Security Council in Geneva which would be devoted to the discussion of the critical situation in the Arab Gulf. The message also mentioned that the Soviet leadership pays particular attention to the Arab factor in the solution of this crisis, expressed hope for the continuation of efforts being made by the brother leader in this context, and expressed readiness to cooperate with the Libyan Arab side to find a solution to the Gulf crisis and settle the other issues in the Middle East.

JANA Editor on Remarks by Former U.S. Envoy

LD2509225490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1936 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 25.09.90 (JANA)—JANA's political editor commented on the remarks by Richard Parker, former U.S. ambassador to Rabat and Algiers, to the Voice of America's weekly program "Pictures from the Arab Maghreb" in which he talked about the American position towards the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union]. The editor said:

The words of the U.S. ambassador, Richard Parker, represent the strongest American interference in the internal affairs of the Arab nation.

America proves every day that it does not want friends, but agents. It is a mortal enemy of Arab unity and tries to interfere in the internal affairs of the Arab nation. What Ambassador Parker said in his definition of the U.S. position toward the AMU and its members is damning proof of the intrinsic American hostility [words indistinct] and it will be sorry one day when it will be too late for sorrow.

The editor continued his comment and said:

American insolence to any member of the AMU is an insult to the Arab countries which America considers as friends. It seems that out of this friendship, America wants to make them its satellites and wants the rulers of these countries to implement its orders, which is a grave insult to the AMU countries and an insult to the historic leaderships who have a record full of struggle and strife.

In concluding his comment, the political editor wondered: When did we ask America to give aid to the AMU?!

We will not need it even in a thousand years. All we ask of America is to stay behind the Atlantic as far as possible from us and not to support us, because we are not naive cildren any more and we understand the aims of the "divide and rule" policy which it adopts.

Congress Official Meets With Jordanian Speaker

LD2509215190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The brother secretary of the General People's Congress met in Tripoli this evening the speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Ways of strengthening bilateral relations existing between the secretariat of the General People's Congress and the Jordanian House of Representatives were discussed during the meeting. An exchange of views on the common issues

and current developments in the Arab arena, foreign intervention in the Gulf region, and the danger it constitutes for pan-Arab security also took place.

Morocco

Cabinet Approves Privatization Measures

LD2509134890 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 25 (MAP)—The Moroccan Cabinet ended on Monday [24 September] in Rabat discussions of the privatization law and adopted a number of draft decrees relating to the enforcement of the transfer of state-owned businesses to the private sector.

During the meeting, presided at by Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki, the cabinet examined the law on the legal and financial measures linked to the implementation of privatization, especially the defining of rules permitting assessment of the value and prices of concerned goods.

The cabinet also examined the issue of conditions governing participation of salaried employees of businesses subject to transfer, the prerogatives of the authorities in charge of the privatization process, and functioning conditions of the five-member commission on privatization.

'Istiqlal' Party Leader on Sahara, Gulf Issues

LD2509134990 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 25 (MAP)—"We consider that any referendum (for self-determination) in the Sahara has become today meaningless and totally out of date", said Mohamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Moroccan 'Istiqlal' Party (nationalist/opposition).

In a statement before the ordinary session of the party's provincial council in Marrakesh, carried Monday [24 September] by the L'OPINION daily, Boucetta said that "concerning the Sahara issue, we realized that the report by UNO Secretary General Perez de Cuellar represents a retreat in relation to the acquisitions for which the party struggled, along with the whole country".

"When HM King Hassan II proposed the referendum in Nairobi", Boucetta went on, "our attitude was clear for it was, for us, a confirmation referendum and no more. In all the decisions made at the time, there was no question of freezing neither the administration nor the army, just as it was out of the question that the sovereignty (of Morocco) be undermined".

Boucetta said the report of the UNO secretary general snaps fingers at all these points adding "Our attitude results from the fact that on a number of occasions the inhabitants of the Sahara proclaimed their Moroccanity, the best example being the visit by HM King Hassan II to these provinces and the warmth they showed on that occasion".

All those who were misled by the 'Polisario' sought to regain the homeland, he stressed.

Dealing with Sebta and Mellilia (two Moroccan northern cities still under Spanish rule), Boucetta said these two cities should not be mentioned in the next Spanish geographic map, which will be represented by the end of 1992.

Concerning the Gulf crisis, Boucetta said that the Western colonialists and the new crusaders have found in this situation an opportunity to settle again in the Middle East. It is obvious, he added, that the Iraqi attack on Kuwait is unacceptable, but all this cannot justify, neither the U.S. presence, nor the deployment of other foreign forces in the region.

Boucetta also said that the 'Istiqlal' Party favors a solution within an Arab framework and considers the foreign military presence on Arab lands a means to safeguarding Western political and economic interests, rather than to defend the legality.

Sudan

RCC Member Asks Leaders To Contain Crisis

EA2509220490 Khartoum SUNA in French 0929 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum 25 September (SUNA)—Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the political committee, has launched an appeal to Arab leaders to avoid worsening inter-Arab differences and to try to contain the Gulf crisis, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH, the People's Armed Forces daily, reported today. He also pointed out that the Sudanese position favored an Arab solution to the crisis free of foreign intervention. Brig. Hasan further indicated that Sudan was committed to the resolutions adopted by international institutions and that each country must leave peacefully.

RCC Member on Arab 'Difference in Views'

EA2409224090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 September (SUNA)—Command Council member Colonel Salah al-Din al-Karrar said the difference in views among Arab states in the recent Cairo summit was something that deserve to be respected and which should not cause split among Arab states.

In press statement he made Monday [24 September], Colonel Karrar said Sudan was keen to maintain and develop relations with Arab countries and in particular Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Difference in views among Arab states was not the first and will surely not be the last, Colonel Karrar said.

Colonel Karrar has reaffirmed that amity and affection still exist between Sudan and Arab states. He underlined Sudan commitment to developing and bolstering ties

with all Arab states. Colonel Karrar told pressmen Monday the moves of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, was to be seen within the context of Sudan's concern for strengthening Arab ranks.

Colonel Karrar has meanwhile praised the economic achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, member states. He said economic integration will ultimately lead to political unity. He said failure of previous Arab unity attempts was because they were not founded on economic basis. He said any future Arab unity attempt was deemed to failure unless economic cooperation were its pillar.

SPLA Air Raids on Southern Cities Reported

NC2509205290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Nairobi, 25 Sep (MENA)—It was announced in Nairobi today that the Sudanese Armed Forces conducted air raids against four southern cities in the areas controlled by the John Garang-led Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA].

Citing sources, the nonaligned news agencies pool reports that the city of Burr on the White Nile has been coming under violent bombardment since last Thursday [20 September] and that Sudanese planes raided the cities of Akun, (Firul), and Liri, which are controlled by Garang. The sources gave no information about casualties.

Tunisia

Two Loan Agreements Signed With World Bank

LD2509141990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Two loan agreements totaling $29 million were signed yesterday between Tunisia and the World Bank. The agreements were signed on the Tunisian side by Mustapha Nabli, minister of planning and regional development, and on the World Bank side, by the vice chairman of the World Bank for Europe and the Middle East [words indistinct] $17 million [equaling] about 15 million [Tunisian] dinars as a contribution to the setting up of a project aimed at reorganizing and developing research and agricultural guidance in Tunisia.

The second loan, totaling $12 million [and equaling] about 10 million [Tunisian] dinars, will be devoted to financing the establishment of a fund for vocational training and integration. This fund will finance a number of projects aimed at easing the ways to finding new jobs and improving productivity and training in companies.

The two World Bank loans will be repaid over 17 years with a delay of five years.

Bahrain

Amir Receives U.S. Marine Commander Gray

JN2509154590 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0730 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 25 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah this morning received U.S. Marine commander General Alfred Gray. They reviewed current regional developments and friendly bilateral ties.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, and Charles Hostler, U.S. ambassador to the State of Bahrain.

Prime Minister Receives 'Abd-al-Majid Message

JN2509205690 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1155 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 25 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salaman Al Khalifah has received a written message from Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Egypt's Ambassador to Bahrain Nabil Mustafa Ibrahim conveyed the message when he was received by his highness the prime minister here today.

During the meeting, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salaman Al Khalifah reviewed with the Egyptian ambassador the strong bilateral relations and the current Arab political position in view of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwaiti territory.

His highness the prime minister praised Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's efforts on the Arab and international levels to resolve the Gulf crisis and stressed that Egypt's prominent role is appreciated and reinforces its world status.

Kuwait

Amir Leaves for UN General Assembly Session

LD2509121190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1126 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 25 Sep (SPA)—His highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, today headed for New York to deliver Kuwait's address at the meetings of the 45th United Nations General Assembly session.

His highness will also take part in the UNICEF celebrations marking World Children's Day in his capacity as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization.

The KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY [KUNA] reported that before his departure his highness the amir of Kuwait held contacts with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] leaders to discuss the latest developments in the Arab Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

His highness is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir; the adviser to the Amir's Office, 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Utayqi; Finance Minister Shaykh Ali al-Khalifa al-Adhbi; Planning Minister Sulayman 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Muttawa'; and a number of senior officials.

Qatar

Defense Minister Receives Chevenement Letter

JN2209082490 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1805 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 21 Sep (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah al Thani, Qatar's heir apparent and defense minister, has received a letter from French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement dealing with Gulf developments and bilateral ties.

The letter was handed over by the French Ambassador in Qatar Pierre Ariola when he called on his highness this evening.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Comments on Soviet Relations

PM2109150090 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
18 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Hashim 'Abduh Hashim: "Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Tells Saudi Chief Editors: Resumption of Relations with Moscow Enhances World Stability"]

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday received Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in Moscow. The foreign minister was also received yesterday by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who welcomed him and said that relations between the two countries were good and that there was cooperation between them.

In an interview with the chief editors of the Saudi newspapers, 'UKAZ, AL-RIYAD, ARAB NEWS, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, who accompanied him on his Moscow visit, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal emphasized that the resumption of Saudi-Soviet relations would contribute to the establishment of peace and security not only in the region but throughout the world.

His highness said that the restoration of ties between the kingdom and the Soviet Union was the result of successive tangible changes in the Soviet attitudes and policies in recent years, and that the kingdom highly appreciated and was following these developments with satisfaction, feeling inclined to respond to them in the interests of peace and stability.

The world, he said, is currently witnessing major and effective changes which call for a quick, practical response from us. He added that the shift from the cold war to international cooperation reflected the desire of the United States and the Soviet Union to opt for world peace, development, and cooperation. That option, he noted, would in our view be advantageous if properly exploited.

With regard to the Soviet position on the current crisis, the foreign minister said that he felt that there was a progressive positive development of the Soviet position in the interest of international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions against forcible occupation and disregard for the international will and for international laws and traditions. He added that the international community was not prepared to abandon or depart from its firm principles and that the Soviet Union was aware of the need for adherence to the Security Council resolutions and would accept no alternative to them.

He said that the Helsinki declaration rejecting anything short of implementation of the Security Council resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal, the reinstatement of the legitimate authorities, and the cessation of all acts of aggression against the region's states confirmed the Soviet Union's desire to go all the way in tackling the crisis resolutely and determinedly, contrary to the claim that the Soviet Union was taking a lukewarm attitude toward Iraqi actions.

His highness said: We feel that the Soviets are quite determined on this issue. He added that they had said, through their foreign minister, that they would not object to going to Baghdad—but only to promote a settlement within the framework of the Security Council resolutions, and nothing else.

His highness said that Iraq had planned to invade Saudi Arabia in order to be able to bargain and impose the status quo in Kuwait, but he was surprised by three things which he had not taken into consideration, namely:

1. Saudi Arabia promptly invited Arab and Islamic forces in.
2. He did not think that the Arab response would be so strong and cohesive.
3. He did not expect the position taken by the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, 'UKAZ has learned that the kingdom and the Soviet Union will soon exchange ambassadors and that there will be greater cooperation between the two countries in the future.

London Arab Paper Comments

PM2409105190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 90 p 13

[Editorial: "Moscow, Riyadh, and Fruits of Dialogue"]

[Text] The restoration of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union assumes exceptional importance, not only because of the two countries' international status and weight, but also because of the exceptional circumstances which the Gulf region is experiencing. The Soviet Union, despite the changes which have occurred in the international order, is a major state that carries weight on the international scene. It is a major state close to the Arab world. This is in addition to the fact that, in view of the change which has occurred in its internal and foreign policies over the past five years, the Soviet Union has turned into a major partner in the new international order and, indeed, into one of its safety valves. And in addition to the significance of relations with the Soviet Union in political and economic terms, the Islamic presence in it remains one of the major factors behind the decision to reactivate relations. And today's world is first and last the world of dialogue and the exchange of views, since the logic of estrangement and disregard is no longer justifiable.

The Soviet Union has always expressed interest in resuming diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia, not only because of its economic weight but because of its position in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

In fact, the chances of reunion have doubled since the Soviet Union chose the path of realism in its foreign policy, a major part of which is now based on international legitimacy, whose resolutions have been supported by Saudi Arabia.

Perhaps the best example of the possibility of reunion is the position on the crisis sparked in the Gulf by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Despite its political and military ties with Baghdad, the Kremlin realized the danger of the Iraqi regime's approach to the region and the world. So it hastened to join the international resolutions. And its leader announced at the Helsinki summit that nothing less than the implementation of the international resolutions can be accepted. And this is the objective sought by Saudi Arabia, which has reiterated, via Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, that the solution lies in an Iraqi withdrawal, the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy, and the withdrawal of Iraqi deployments from the area of the border with Saudi Arabia.

The resumption of relations does not necessarily mean that positions are identical or similar in everything, but it does certainly mean willingness to hold a dialogue on everything—a dialogue which can only serve the Arabs and their causes.

'UKAZ Lauds USSR Stance on Gulf Crisis

PM2109155290 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Sep 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Crisis Confirms Gorbachev's Credibility: Soviet Stance on Crisis Confirms New Positive Policy"]

[Excerpts] The steadfast and unequivocal Soviet position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is one of the major international political results of the current crisis in the region. The

world will thoroughly examine the aspects and results of this position at the international level in general.

Certainly this Soviet position has been crucially effective in thwarting the calculations on which Saddam Husayn based his invasion of Kuwait, in confirming Iraq's international isolation, in tightening the international blockade against Iraq, and in enhancing the United Nations' effectiveness and its role through the UN Security Council resolutions.

No one can imagine how the world could have put Iraq's rulers in their present dilemma without a positive, courageous, and constructive position on the Soviet leadership's part.

Certainly this Soviet position did not emerge just because of the crisis itself, nor did it develop solely on the basis of calculations and factors relating to this crisis. This position's significance extends beyond that. It confirms a completely new overall Soviet policy in terms of its principles, methods, and dealings and its view of international problems throughout the world. This position also proves the credibility of all Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's ideas about world peace, stability, and cooperation for the sake of world prosperity.

This new policy, with its important aspects and implications, should encounter an Arab response and a serious Arab reaction that appreciates these steps and deals conscientiously with new developments in the international order, thus adapting to the changes in the international order so that the Arabs' position and status within this order can be safeguarded.

All Arabs have a duty to take positive steps toward Moscow—steps that match the major transformations which have occurred in Soviet policy and the restoration of its vital role in the Middle East on new and correct foundations for its dealings with the region's states and their issues. This outcome confirms the objective analysis of the Soviet Union's position on the crisis and the position's implications and aspects with regard to foreign policy as a whole. [passage omitted]

Within such an understanding of the Soviet position on the crisis in the region and its implications with regard to the Soviet Union's policy, general orientations, and new positive role in the Middle East, and on the basis of its political influence within the new international order, this position must encounter an Arab response equal to the positive transformations which Soviet policy has undergone with Mikhail Gorbachev's help.

This requires an Arab response consistent with Arab interests, ethics, and principles:

1—It is in the Arab states' interests to fully realize and understand, interact with, and respond to the changes taking place around them. The Arabs must not remain silent before these transformations. They must participate in them so that they can secure the most suitable position for the Arab will within that order.

If the transformations in Soviet policy are the most notable changes in that new order, the Arabs should respond positively to these transformations.

2—Arab interests, values, and ethics require that the new Soviet policy be appreciated and responded to in order to encourage it to move forward. Cooperation must be maintained with it along this correct line.

3—Out of concern for their crucial issues in this world, it is the Arabs' duty to benefit from the new Soviet policy by interacting with it, instead of leaving the way clear for the Arab nation's enemies to try to turn it against Arab interests.

4—It would be fair for Mikhail Gorbachev, with his new orientations, to be treated differently from the way Soviet policy was treated in the past eras of Soviet leadership.

5—With its new policy, the Soviet Union will remain a politically influential superpower in this world. It is not in Arab interests to continue to ignore it, now that all the obstacles that prevented dealings with the Soviet Union in the past have been eliminated.

It was Gorbachev who withdrew from Afghanistan. It was he who declared that the Soviet intervention there was wrong. Gorbachev is not seeking to spread communism. In fact he is destroying it in his country. Gorbachev respects the states' rights and does not interfere in their internal affairs. He is playing a role in supporting world stability, not stirring up troubles. All this should be dealt with fairly and in the manner that it deserves.

6—The start of a new phase in Arab dealings and cooperation with the Soviet Union would help over 50 million Muslims in the Soviet Union to guarantee their rights and organize their conditions amid the major internal changes currently taking place in the Soviet scene.

Thus all the Arab states are urged today, rather than tomorrow, to respond to these changes with the joint cooperation that they deserve for everyone's benefit, for the sake of the Arab issues, and in order to bolster peace and stability based on justice in the region. Everyone must realize that today's Soviet Union is not the same as yesterday's.

Cabinet Discusses Arab Stances on Gulf Crisis

LD2409190690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard chaired the council of ministers' meeting this afternoon at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir said that the council reviewed all reports on current events at political and military

levels. Then it discussed the stances of some Arab countries vis-a-vis the Arabian Gulf crisis in the light of reports by the media quoting officials in the countries mentioned, and the wise immediate retaliatory measures adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the negative stances that have harmed the interests of the places of their origin.

The information minister added: In this context His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz recalled the brotherly stances adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the years in support of the brothers, and the unlimited support which it continued to provide them with in various spheres on various occasions, and at times of difficulty out of its perpetual concern to do its Arab and Islamic duty and by the dictates of humanitarian sentiments, neighborliness, and the sharing of crisis. He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by its nature, does not harbor evil, nor does it allow harm to anyone, and it dislikes interference in the affairs of others. However, it refuses to compromise with those who harm it or interfere in its affairs. [passage omitted]

Salaries of Palestinians in Country Frozen

TA2409114890 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Nabulus—It was officially confirmed yesterday that Saudi Arabia has frozen the salaries of hundreds of Palestinian employees and Jordanian employees of Palestinian origin who work in Saudi Arabia and receive their salaries through Saudi banks.

Many of those employees called their relatives here yesterday and the day before to inform them of the decision to freeze their August salaries. This decision was made on 5 September, and only a few employees were able to draw their salaries before it went into effect.

Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia have complained about the severe restrictions applied to them by the Saudis and Gulf citizens. They have also complained about being the target of abuse and humiliation. They warned of an explosive situation developing between the Palestinians and the Arab and Saudi employees as a result of the shameful attacks on the Palestinians.

Holy Mecca Radio Decries 'Prohibited Deeds'

JN2409125690 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio in Arabic 0728 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] O Arabs, O Muslims; It is strange for one to accept insult or filth on one's own territory. It is amazing that someone should accept that the honorable and pure Arab woman in the Arabian Peninsula has become a target for the evils of the infidel American and Zionist, his arrogance, his drunkenness, and profanity of all values and norms. It is amazing that someone should cover up for what Bush's forces, the devils of infidelity, have spread, such as immorality and evil in Dhahran, in a way that threatens all values and norms with which the Muslim Arab woman has been raised.

Many liberal-minded people have removed their women from Dhahran. How can they feel comfortable when Dhahran has been transformed into a brothel of atheism, immorality, and debauchery. Do we, the pure Arabs, yield to this extent? No, in God's name. Our honorable religion granted women rights which circumstantial laws issued under banners of liberalism did not. How do we accept our honor to be crushed and liberal Arab women to be besmirched before the devils of infidelity, the soldiers of Bush and Shamir, who have no respect for anything that is sacred or holy.

Woe to whoever observes prohibited deeds and does not rectify them with his own hands, tongue, or heart. Woe to whoever takes his honor and dignity lightly and allows the sanctity of our unblemished women to be violated. I ask God's forgiveness. God grant me forgiveness.

United Arab Emirates

Bangladesh President Ershad Arrives 22 Sep

Agenda Previewed

JN2209173390 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 22 (GNA)—Bangladesh's President Hussain Mohammad Ershad arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on two-day visit to UAE. [United Arab Emirates]

During the visit, President Ershad will hold talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayan, dealing with the current developments in the Gulf region in the light of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in addition to means of boosting cooperation between the two contries, mainly what is pertaining to repatriation of Bangladesh nationals, stranded in Turkey and Jordan as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Denounces Occupation of Kuwait

JN2309162590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Sep (WAKH)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has denounced Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait and demanded the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

In a speech during a meeting with the Bangladesh community members in the United Arab Emirates, Ershad said it is inconceivable for a large state to occupy a small one through unjust aggression.

The Bangladesh president emphasized that his country will support the Gulf Cooperation Council states with all its resources. He added that his country stands firmly by right and justice.

The Bangladesh president said that his country is economically affected by the Gulf crisis because of the rise in oil prices and the return home of thousands of Bangladeshis working in Iraq and Kuwait.

Holds News Conference

JN2309164790 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] At a news conference at al-Mushrif palace this morning, the Bangladesh president said that he presented an Islamic initiative to Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi when they were both in Saudi Arabia recently. He added that the Pakistani prime minister expressed approval of the initiative.

President Ershad stressed that the Iraqis had to withdraw from Kuwait first without preconditions before anything else could be discussed. He said that his country rejects the occupation of a country by another and looks forward to seeing the crisis resolved as soon as possible.

President Ershad denied any plans for him to visit Iraq at present. He said that his country will send additional troops to the region if it is requested to do so. He indicated that the troops his country sent to Saudi Arabia were dispatched there to defend Saudi Arabia and the holy lands.

On the possible use of force to expel the invading troops from Kuwait, President Ershad said that there is an international consensus on the need for these troops to withdraw and also for the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. We should wait to see this realized through all means, with the understanding that precedence should be given to a peaceful solution, President Ershad added.

In reply to a question on the prospects of a war to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, he said: We are all against war. We are after peace. He affirmed the need for the withdrawal of the invading Iraqi troops.

On the status of the Bangladesh communities in both Iraq and Kuwait, President Ershad said that 45,000 Bangladesh nationals have actually left for home. He added that some 55,000 nationals are still attempting to return. He indicated that his country, just like other Asian countries, was economically hit by the Gulf crisis because of the rise in oil prices and the return of thousands of Bangladesh workers from Iraq and Kuwait.

Meets Shaykh Zayid, Departs

JN2309165990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpts] A round of official talks was held this morning between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and His Excellency Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president of the Republic of Bangladesh. [passage omitted]

Following the session, a responsible source said that the two delegations discussed the latest developments in the Gulf in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. The two sides exchanged views on the international efforts under way to apply international legitimacy, represented in the decisions of the Arab summit and the Security Council on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

During the session, moreover, the two presidents reiterated their countries' rejection of the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces. They also stressed the need for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and for the return of legitimacy to Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait.

The two presidents also stressed that Islamic solidarity must be consolidated to face up to the current situation in the region.

His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad left the country this afternoon following his short visit to the UAE. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, led those who saw the president off. [passage omitted]

The Bangladesh president called on Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait immediately. He said his country participated, along with five Asian countries, in preparing an Islamic initiative that provides for the withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces and a return of legitimacy to Kuwait, provided that negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait take place later under the auspices of the six Asian countries to discuss any problems that need to be settled between the two.

He explained that he exchanged views with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan last night on the situation in the Gulf in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. He expressed his gratitude to his highness the president of the state for his stand toward the Bangladesh people who are suffering as a result of the Gulf crisis.

President Receives Message From Romania's Iliescu

JN2409134190 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has received a written message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu in which he voiced the Romanian Government's absolute support for the states in the region in confronting the Iraqi aggression and its adherence to the Security Council resolutions. The message also notes the Romanian Government's desire to reinforce relations of cooperation with the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council states. Romanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Romulus Neagu conveyed the message to the president during a meeting today. [passage omitted]

Message From Argentina's Menem

JN2509175190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 Sep 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from Argentine President Carlos Menem on the current Gulf crisis and the Argentine president's decision to send troops to the region to bolster international efforts seeking to terminate the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, under secretary at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received the message when he met with Alberto Adine, Argentine ambassador to the UAE, this evening.

In another development, Shaykh Hamdan discussed current Lebanese developments and UAE-Lebanese ties when he met here today with Lebanese ambassador to the UAE Zuhyar Hamdan.

The UAE Foreign Affairs Ministry under secretary also reviewed with Brazilian Ambassador to the UAE Jose Fereira Lopez the latest developments in the Gulf region when they met this evening.

Yemen

Salih Anniversary Address Discusses Gulf Crisis

JN2509203090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Sep 90

["Statement" by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the 28th anniversary of the 26 September revolution—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brother citizens at home and abroad: We are fully confident that our young Republic will be able, in a few years time, God willing, to enter a phase of comprehensive development, depending basically on its own resources—its God-given human and agricultural capabilities, oil, and mineral wealth. However, this alone is not sufficient to escape the vicious circle in which developing countries have found themselves due to the massive disturbances created by the current world economic order, which is governed by relations of inequality between the rich and developed countries and the less developed countries. The situation today is such that the rich countries are becoming even richer and more luxurious, while the poor countries are getting poorer and more miserable.

We do not need to emphasize here that the continuation of these disturbances constitutes a major cause of conflicts in many parts of the world. One of the most important ways to remove spots of tension here and there is to establish a just new economic order that takes into account the rights guaranteed by international conventions to all world countries, large and small, strong and weak, and rich and poor. The new order should narrow the huge gap between those who possess all means of luxury and the overwhelming majority of the world population who live below the line of extreme poverty and lack the basic means to avoid poverty, want, ignorance, and disease.

In this regard, we find it necessary to point out the negative impact the current serious crisis is having in the region on a large number of nations, albeit to various degrees. Our country, which is near the circle of conflict, found that its adherence to Security Council Resolution No. 661, which imposed a full blockade on Iraq, has resulted in serious implications that it cannot overcome unless the [word indistinct] countries meet their political and moral obligations concerning the assistance they promised to countries hurt by the implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 661. This assistance is necessary for these countries to overcome the difficulties facing their economies, trade, and development. If this is not achieved, then the inequality in economic relations will only worsen, and the weak countries will lose their confidence in the fair play of countries that control international decisionmaking, forcing others to acquiesce to this decisionmaking while they themselves do not bear its consequences and burdens.

We hope that the developing countries' adherence to the Security Council resolutions will not turn into a punishment for them, at a time when those who sought the adoption of the resolution and forced others to comply with it maintain their luxury, ignoring the suffering of millions of people around them, having achieved their own purposes and their ends.

O faithful sons of Yemen: Our country celebrates the first anniversary of the immortal September revolution with one great goal of its six goals realized, thanks to the determination of all the Yemenis. The goal that obsessed the revolution for 28 years became a tangible fact on 22 May 1990. On this occasion, we in the Presidential Council are eager to renew the principles and bases of the Republic of Yemen's foreign policy. We stress that they proceed from the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence, good neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, commitment to international conventions and norms, and the policy of nonalignment and equal dealing with all nations in a manner that serves the common interests and the cause of world peace and security. On this basis, we bless the current serious inclinations toward the elimination of the specter of destruction and [word indistinct] that threatens humanity. However, this danger will not be eliminated except through total elimination of mass destruction weapons.

Proceeding from these firm principles that govern our relations with the foreign world, our country's relations with its sisterly Arab countries and with our brothers in religion and creed in the Islamic world are distinct: They

proceed from our firm belief that the Arab nation, no matter what difficulties and challenges it faces and what differences and disputes emerge among some of its countries, is more capable than others, at present and in the future, of overcoming them and ending their problems without foreign intervention.

Therefore, our country's stand on the Gulf crisis was and is still based on respecting the right to the sovereignty and independence of every Arab country and on the inadmissibility of occupying another's territory and resorting to force and military confrontation to resolve problems. We proceed from the principle that these rights govern relations among all world countries. These rights should be respected and safeguarded among the states of the Arab nation. This puts the onus on everyone to adhere to resolving crises and disputes among our states inside the one Arab community.

Therefore, we continue to insist that the peaceful solution accepted by the two parties must be an Arab solution, apart from foreign interference. This is our country's position on the current Gulf crisis.

However, we in the Presidential Council are also concerned with defining the positions of the Republic of Yemen on the foreign presence in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. We consider this a flagrant threat to the security and safety of the entire Arab nation, regardless of the circumstances and climate that led to this buildup. We are dutybound to frankly and clearly assert to our Yemeni masses and Arab states that resolving the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is directly linked to the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. The earlier resolution proposal was based on Iraq's agreement on the principle of its withdrawal from the Kuwaiti territory—and this is what we have sought to achieve since Friday, 3 August.

In addition to this, many non-Arab states, including some permanent members of the Security Council, are today more concerned with the importance of the Arab solution to the crisis in order to achieve a peaceful end that will save the region from the pains of mass destruction. In our view this means the campaign of escalation, which rejected calm fraternal mediation, has found itself in the position we have been calling for since the outbreak of this crisis, before this region was in a state of fear and terror, and before dangers threatened its people, installations, and achievements which have been built through many years of efforts and work.

On this occasion, we reiterate that our country will upgrade its modest efforts—out of its firm and clear policy—in cooperation with all Arab states to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully on the basis of the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the region, and respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs.

O faithful sons of Yemen: The international community has recently devoted its total attention to the Gulf crisis. Therefore, it must be remembered that the crux of the problem and the basis of struggle in the Arab region from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf is represented by the Arab struggle with the Zionist entity, which was planted by colonialism and cultivated by U.S. imperialism. All of them held in contempt the human rights principles involved in this dispute. They rushed to uphold UN resolutions in order to impose hegemony and control over part of the Arab homeland.

Therefore, we in the Republic of Yemen find this double standard behavior only a sign of arrogance and absolute adherence to self-interest. However, the faith of our people and the sons of the Arab nation in the steadfastness of the stone-throwing children will not be shaken. Our confidence in the Palestinian Arab people's struggle will not wane, because this struggle will uphold justice and remove iniquities.

As for our country's relations with our brothers in the Islamic states, they will grow and develop under the shadow of the Republic of Yemen, based on mutual respect and earnest efforts to realize the highest degree of cooperation to promote and protect the interests of the Islamic nation, defend it against threats, and confront all those who try to infringe on its faith and soil.

These are the foundations and principles for cooperation with the peoples of the Islamic nation, practiced notably by the Iranian people, now that a comprehensive solution and total peace has been established between Iran and the fraternal Iraqi Republic. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Messages From Bush, Gorbachev

JN2209164390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, along with brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Soviet Ambassador in Sanaa Veniamin Popov, who delivered a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the brother president on a number of issues concerning bilateral relations and developments in the region.

The brother president and his deputy today also received U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Charles Dunbar, who delivered a message from U.S. President George Bush to the brother president dealing with the development in the events of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula, and relations between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Salih Cables Fahd Congratulations on National Day

JN2209193390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has sent the following cable of congratulations:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh: For myself, and in the name of my brother members of the Presidential Council, I take pleasure on the occasion of the national day of your sisterly country to send you the warmest congratulations, praying to God the almighty that on the next anniversary you will be enjoying good health and happiness and the brotherly Saudi people progress and affluence, and brotherly relations between the two sisterly countries will have seen further development and prosperity, praying to God to spare our Arab nation every harm, and to return peace of mind to its peoples and to grant them the ability to cope with the difficult times with every wisdom and responsibility. Please accept my deepest appreciation.

[Signed] Lieutenant Gen 'Abli 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Al-Bid Speaks on Yemeni Evacuees, Gulf Crisis

JN2509143790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Presidential Council Chairman Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council Vice Chairman, the Presidential Council members, the prime minister and his deputies, Field Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal, Defense Minister Brigadier General Haytham Qasim al-Tahir, and Chief of Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah al-Bashiri attended a ceremony on the graduation of the second course of the joint command and staff at the al-Shawkani Hall of the Police College in Sanaa this morning. Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid delivered a speech, conveying the Presidential Council's heartfelt greetings to the brother graduates. [passage omitted]

He said: Today, everyone is participating in these celebrations happily, but, O brothers, many of our Yemeni brothers are very sad because of tragedies they and our Arab society are suffering. New disasters are befalling the Yemenis. Thousands of Yemenis are being expelled without justification and are forced to return home on foot. They are being expelled after long years spent building the countries in which they worked. This arouses our concern and bitterness. We say a solution should be worked out instead of merely discussing the problem. We all should work to achieve a solution. A solution, rather than problems, is demanded. But ignoring this situation, dealing with the issue in this manner, and taking arbitrary measures against our Yemeni brothers and sons who have spent most of their lives in these neighboring Arab countries prompt us to work to alleviate the sufferings of these thousands of homeless, who have been expelled from Kuwait or who are being expelled by other Arab countries. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said that we have 2 million Yemenis, and we will not be complacent in dealing with their problem.

He also said: We want to see everyone happy and we want to cooperate with everyone. We extend our hands to everyone with an open mind. We hope that our brothers in these countries will understand this situation and review their measures. He urged all good nationalists and popular and political organizations to set up national committees to alleviate the suffering of these homeless expatriate brothers. He pointed out that the Presidential Council and the Government have been exerting intensive efforts to give assistance to those victims, who are suffering from injustice and arbitrary measures. He continued: We believe that we are stronger than ever and we can deal with our issues effectively. No one is looking for problems. But, as we are exposed to these events in the Arab homeland and the Yemeni situation is affected, we can say we are stronger than we were yesterday, when we were divided. He then stressed that unity is more capable of solving problems, now that we are in the age of unity and the September Revolution.

He added: We are against the annexation of Kuwait and the foreign presence, which is threatening our independence. We also support the Arab effort and the Arab solution and we must maintain these positions to contain this complicated problem. We in the Arab countries see fleets and hear about military bases. We are also living in an age that is trying to pull us back to the 19th century as we are about to enter the 21st century, because we are facing the age of military bases and colonialism. We are in an area that is being exposed to expansion by others, and we must work with others to save our Arab region and territory from this problem. The Presidential Council vice chairman also said that any difficulties should be confronted and we should make national efforts to deal with them. [passage omitted]

Al-Dali Leaves for UN General Assembly Session

JN2509195190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left for New York today leading our country's delegation to the UN General Assembly's current session. In a statement to SABA', he explained that the session will discuss many international issues, foremost of which are the Palestine question, the Middle East problem, economic cooperation, debts, disarmament, world peace and security, care for children in the world, and other issues.

Saddam Addresses Letter to America 26 Sep

JN2609100790 Baghdad INA in English
0922 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 26, INA—President Saddam Husayn today addressed a letter to the American people. Following is the full text of the letter.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

"O mankind we have created you male and female and made you into races and tribes. That you may know one another surely. The noblest among you in the sight of God is the most God fearing of you. God is all-knowing all-aware." [Koranic verses] Sadaqa Allahul Adhim (God is the word of truth)

People of the United States of America, Assalamu Alaikum (Peace be upon you).

I say Assalamu Alaikum rather than "Good morning" or "Good evening" which would have been more in line with the ways of the West, because when the Arabs greet other people, they use the phrase "Assalamu Alaikum." Hence you can see at the outset that the Arabs believe in peace even when they greet non-Arabs. They also commence their address to others by words of good wishes, optimism and desire for peace. This is part of the tradition and heritage of the Arab nation and Islam to which we are honored to belong. I address you now after President Bush has appeared on our national television. He expressed to the people of Iraq his views on the current crisis in our region. As I address you to express our point of view within the space of time available to me, my concern will be the great majority of the American people, not those involved in the business of politics. It is the great majority of the people that constitutes the essence of any legitimate human issue in accordance with the concept of democracy. Accordingly, I find it necessary to reiterate certain matters already known to professional politicians through their work. President Bush has already appeared on Iraqi national television and presented his views in full after he voiced his desire to do so on August 30, 1990 along with his displeasure at the appearance of Saddam Husayn on U.S. television. Once we had known of President Bush's desire, and out of respect for American and Western public opinion in general, we welcomed the idea through our minister of information. Now that President Bush has expressed his viewpoint, I should like to present to you some important views held by our country and our nation.

Bush has said to the people of Iraq that the U.S. Administration had no quarrel with them. To prove this, he said the administration had allowed the Iraqis to purchase some of the goods they needed, particularly grains, from the U.S. market. He also said that the U.S. Administration had also helped bring about the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war. The U.S. President did not hit the truth when he said the U.S. Administration had no quarrel with the people of Iraq. We have evidence that President Bush was himself involved in the 1986 Iran-Gate or Iran-Contra conspiracy against Iraq in 1986 when he was Reagan's vice-president. This is a well known fact documented in the dossier of the case. We received an apology from President Reagan over that affair, which he described as a mistake not to be repeated. We accepted the apology which was conveyed to us through the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Richard Murphy on May 11, 1987.

Voices had already begun to be raised in the U.S. and Britain for economic, technological, and scientific sanctions to be imposed on Iraq, well before the emergence of the current Gulf crisis. Some of the measures taken against Iraq, including the embargo on the export of grains and other commodities had already been discussed and adopted by the U.S., Britain, and other Western countries before August 2, 1990, the day on which the Iraqi Army extended assistance in the expulsion of the former rulers of Kuwait who had been installed by foreign powers to impose a despotic rule on this severed part of Iraq.

Do you know, ladies and gentlemen, why the Bush administration and its ally, Mrs. Thatcher, took those measures to boycott Iraq even before the emergence of what has come to be known as the current Gulf crisis, why, indeed have certain voices been raised in the United States and Britain promoting the notion that ending the life of Saddam Husayn, by assassinating him, has become a necessity, and encouraging an attack to be perpetrated against vital installations in Iraq? Why did the Iran-gate conspiracy take place in 1986, involving Mr. Bush, Israeli representative and others? [sentence as received]

This had taken place before the deployment of U.S. and British armies to the area. Worse developments may be yet to come. This is because we are Arabs. And since we are genuine in our humanity, we rejected, as we still do, the Zionist encroachment upon the land of Palestine, their oppression against the Palestinians and their occupation of holy Quds (Jerusalem). You are aware, ladies and gentlemen, that we do not stand alone in our rejection of occupation and oppression. We have with us in this political stand, in addition to the resilient and persevering people of Palestine, the true leaders of the Arab nation along with its two hundred million people. You are also no doubt aware that there are voices demanding an Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian land, allowing the people of Palestine to exercise their right to a free life in dignity, on equal footing with all mankind. These voices have been raised in the American society, even among professional politicians, and in the world at large.

Do you know, ladies and gentlemen, how many resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and General-Assembly against the Israeli policies violating the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and perpetuating Israel's occupation of the lands of Palestine, including holy Quds, and all other Arab lands occupied since 1947? More than 160 resolutions have

been adopted by the Security Council alone, along with 4 hundred more issued by the General Assembly. The United States is known to have vetoed more than 80 Security Council resolutions, the majority of which were resolutions on the Palestinian plight.

Yet, no blockade has ever been imposed against Israel as it has been imposed against Iraq, under the pretext of implementing recent resolutions of the Security Council. Not even a milder course of action has been taken, or armies deployed, against Israel. Such measures were never taken against Israel when it announced its official and final annexation of Arab lands and cities.

In the aftermath of the occupation of Lebanon by the Syrian regime which continues to date, no U.S. armies have ever been deployed against that regime, nor have we seen an embargo or boycott being imposed against the Syrian regime, as we see today against Iraq. None of the resolutions or appeals calling for the withdrawal of the foreign armies from Lebanon have been implemented. Why has this been the case. We see now U.S. and Western armies deployed to occupy the land of the Arabian Peninsula, which is sacred to Arabs and Moslems alike, in such a harsh, degrading and arrogant measure as has never been witnessed, except through the story of the attempt made by Abraha the Abbyssinian to invade holy Mecca some 15 centuries ago. The resolutions of the Security Council on the Palestine question have never been implemented, nor have the resolutions and appeals calling for the withdrawal of the Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon. Many other resolutions remain to date unimplemented. Yet we see how the armies of the United States have been deployed against Iraq and how the valiant Iraqi people have been denied food and medicine and even their children's milk. This has been imposed through a decision taken exclusively by the United States, contrary to Mr Bush's claim that those measures were taken by international organizations. The international organizations came indeed later, only to be used as a cover for measures already laid down. The measures taken by the United States and Britain, including their military build-up in the region along with the imposition of the economic embargo, and boycott, came well in advance of any official international measures. And then it was the United States and Britain which goaded the international organizations to take those measures. Indeed, the United States and Britain even forced some countries to participate in those measures against their will. Pressure was exerted overtly on Japan, Germany, Italy and other countries. Pressure, in its open form, could be seen every day by the U.S. citizen on television, or heard or read about through the other information media. It is left up to the U.S. citizens to imagine the kind of covert pressure employed in forcing other countries to adopt the policy laid down by the United States in the international organizations.

Do you know, ladies and gentlemen, why anything like this has never been done before to Israel which still occupies the lands of Palestine and the Arab nation? Do you know why the same thing has not been done to the regime of Hafiz al-Asad which has been occupying the land of Lebanon since 1976?

The answer is: If such a thing had happened, it would have given the Arabs a lot of what would set free their humanity, now fettered by shackles of occupation and its impact. If this were ever to come about, it would enable the Arabs to exercise their proper human role as a nation with an ancient history behind it, renowned always for its remarkable contributions to humanity, both culturally and spiritually in the life of mankind everywhere.

However, nothing of this sort will be allowed to happen because, Israel, the Zionist lobby, arms dealers and politicians awaiting their election chances in the U.S. and other Western countries, either do not want it, or indeed cannot voice out their views. The Zionist lobby is capable, through money, the media and other means, of influencing the outcome of elections. What has not happened in the cases of Lebanon, Palestine, Cyprus and other places in the area and the world at large, is being done only against Iraq and the Arab nation. Why has it been like this? The reason is that military build-ups and the aggressive measures related to them, along with the economic blockade and the even worse measures which the days ahead may yet unfold, are all factors undermining the Arab nation. The return of Kuwait to the fold of its motherland, Iraq, from which it was long severed and usurped, like an infant separated from its mother, will further strengthen the Arab nation and Iraq in their endeavour to reassert their role on the human and pan-Arab levels. It will allow them to show the true example and meaning of Islam, as dictated by God and conveyed by the Prophet Muhammad, in a manner free from the kind of distortion and falsehood that have given Islam a bad name through infamous rulers in the region including some friends of the U.S. It will also throw light on the necessary right of humanity to equal rights and duties, on equal footing with all mankind, regardless of the colour, race and nationality. This runs counter to the desire of Israel and the Zionist lobby which control the fate of many politicians in the West, through the influence they wield in determining the results of the election for many officials in their countries, as well as in other matters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, although I am deeply unwilling to burden you with details, I find it imperative, in respect of the fact that people should be aware of what is going on around them in life, that I put before you some of the facts which may provide you with the opportunity you need to reach the right judgements, and to distinguish the genuine from the dishonest in the behaviour of professional politicians in your country. Kuwait constitutes the southern part of Iraq, which was severed by the British in 1913, in preparation for the First World War, and in which Britain installed Sir Mubarak al-Sabah to be undisputed shaykh, as a reward for his services to, and alliance with, the British against the Ottoman Empire which was then in control of the region of Iraq. Thus, the

Shaykhdom of Kuwait was turned into a British protectorate. No government in Iraq before us, royal or republican, ever constitutionally recognized this measure.

In order not to burden you with excessive detail, I shall cite only three instances out of a long list, every part of which offers an unequivocal confirmation of this fact. In 1938, the Legislative Council in Kuwait decided on two successive occasions that Kuwait should be reunited with Iraq of which it was an integral part. The shaykh of Kuwait, at that time, Ahmad al-Jabir was forced to dissolve the Legislative Council in an attempt to suppress the voice of the people in Kuwait demanding the return of this part to its motherland, Iraq.

In 1958, Nuri al-Sa'id, the then prime minister of Iraq, a close friend of Britain and the West, demanded, at a Baghdad Pact meeting held in Turkey and attended by U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, that Iraq's severed part of Kuwait be returned.

In 1961, when Britain granted Kuwait independence, Iraq rejected the decision. Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim, who was a close friend of the Soviet Union's, took constitutional action to repudiate the British decision. Qasim obtained a constitutional decision to return Kuwait to Iraq appointing the shaykh of Kuwait Qa'im Maqam (district administrator) of the Qada' (district) of Kuwait, subordinate to the Province of Basra, which had been the status of Kuwait prior to its severance from Iraq.

Qasim deployed the Iraqi Army to put his constitutional decision into effect. He was automanoeuvred [previous word as received], however, by the British who entered Kuwait with their forces before he could move in. This led to complications which prevented Iraq's 1961 constitutional move to restore Kuwait from being realized.

This whole background notwithstanding, we dealt with the former Government of Kuwait in a normal manner. The problem, however, was exacerbated and aggravated when we discovered that the sheikhs of Kuwait had been involved in a conspiracy to debilitate Iraq economically and politically in order to weaken it militarily and disturb the relationship existing between its people and their leadership. All this came about as a result of our political stand, to which we have made reference, in relation to the right of the Arabs to a free and decent life, along with the right of people of Palestine to have their freedom, return to their country, achieve their independence and establish their free state on their homeland. We have discovered that the U.S. Administration was involved too, in one way or other, in this conspiracy, and so was the king of Saudi Arabia. This fact is partly revealed in a recorded telephone conversation between King Fahd and the ruler of Qatar on 9 July 1990. I am also sending you, along with this message, the tape-recording of that conversation with English subtitles, hoping that the authorities concerned will let you see it. Add to this fact that the former rulers of Kuwait did not stop at severing Kuwait, when it was still a fledging town confined to its old wall, but began expanding the territory of their sheikhdom until it reached al-Mitla', and then expanded their sheikhdom further by an additional distance of tens of kilometers between 1963 and 1968. Then the rulers of Kuwait exploited our preoccupation with the war between us and Iran to expand further at our expense, by using our southern oilfields to acquire new oil wells from which to funnel additional oil for their benefit.

No warning, however repeatedly stated, could deter them from that course of action. We have, official documents substantiating all this, which we place at the disposal of whoever is interested to have them.

As President Bush was delivering his statement with the help of an autocue, he made the calculated move taking out a piece of paper in which was written a citation from something I had previously said in relation to the Syrian regime's occupation of Lebanon. Granting that the words Mr Bush cited were literally mine on that occasion, I suggest, however, that he should have considered the matter more carefully before passing his judgement, explicitly or implicitly, that, having deplored the Syrian interference in, and occupation of, Lebanon, we have fallen into a contradiction through our action in Kuwait.

The case of Lebanon is totally different from that of Kuwait, as I have already pointed out through the facts I have reviewed. Lebanon did not conspire againt Syria, while the former shaykh of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad, and his clique did conspire against Iraq. Lebanon committed no aggression against Syria, while the former regime of Kuwait perpetrated aggression against Iraq. In any case, the motives were actively different in the two situations. Although Mr Bush meant, sought, through quoting my words, to underscore a contradiction between what we say and what we do, in a vain attempt to justify the deployment of his armies, it remains a fact that Mr Bush had failed to oppose the occupation of Lebanon by Syrian regime. Nor did any of his allies or the traitors involved with him in the conspiracy against the Arab and Islamic nation, oppose that occupation. Indeed, the U.S. Administration had encouraged the Syrian regime at the outset. This may well be supported by the fact that Mr Bush has been keen recently to reward the Syrian regime for the services it has rendered. He dispatched Secretary of State Baker on an official visit to Damascus on 13-14 September, and gave the Syrian regime financial rewards from the United States and its allies both inside and outside the region.

So what has been regarded by Mr Bush to be an imputation on us, through the text he quoted from my speech, is in fact a shameful imputation on Bush himself and on all those who adopt double-standards and conflicting criteria in their thinking and behaviour and in the solutions they seek to impose on issues, be they those of Lebanon, Palestine or of any other part.

On the top of all this, and in order that you may know the extent of the damage caused to an ancient people

through that black conspiracy spearheaded by rulers of Kuwait against Iraq, let me give you just one example in the financial field through which you can make your own judgements. The Iraqi dinar fell to around one twentieth of Kuwaiti dinar after it had been higher in value than the Kuwaiti currency in 1980. Having seen all doors closed in front of us for a solution that might reassure the Iraqi people about their present and their future, including the failure of the Jeddah negotiations of 31 July 1990, which we conducted with the rulers of Kuwait via a delegation from our side headed by the vice-chairman of our Revolution Command Council and the delegation from their side headed by the former prime minister of Kuwait, we were left with no other alternative but to take the action which we took on 2 August 1990, in order to halt danger, remove a historical injustice and place Iraq in position of self-reassurance and of capability to serve its nation and humanity at large.

Contrary to what President Bush tells you about Iraq having invaded Kuwait without any Kuwaiti provocation against Iraq, here are some extracts from the warnings which we repeatedly expressed in public to the rulers of Kuwait but in vain. These are the warnings which we made in public. There were others which remain unpublished.

We addressed the rulers of Kuwait in the presence of the Arab heads of state during a meeting of the Baghdad summit conference on 30 May 1990, by saying:

War takes sometimes through soldiers [INA Arabic renders this passage as "War sometimes takes place through soldiers"] and damage is inflicted by explosives, killings or coup attempts: at other times war is launched through economic means. To those who do not mean to wage war against Iraq, I say that this is a kind of war against Iraq.

Then I made the following statement on 16 July 1990, in my annual address to the nation celebrating the anniversary of Iraq's national day (the anniversary of 17-30 July revolution):

Because the people of Iraq, who have suffered this deliberate injustice, have enough faith in their right to self-defence and the defence of their rights, they shall never forget the saying: "Rather heads be cut off, than sustenance." If words fail to provide protection, then decisive action must be taken to restore the usurped rights to their owners.

Does not all this constitute warnings made in advance, but in vain?

Was there not a provocation indeed a flagrant aggression against Iraq?

Is not all this evidence enough for understanding the measures we took on and after 2 August 1990?

President Bush is aware of all this and of more facts substantiating the meaning and legitimacy of the measures that we have taken. His administration followed events closely.

The American Government and Congress were escalating one campaign after another against Iraq and drafting one after another for further measures of boycott and blockade to be imposed against Iraq in the political, economic and other fields.

All this had already happened prior to 2 August 1990. The American measures were being taken against us as a reaction to our repeated warning to the Government of Kuwait.

Now after that has taken place and regardless of any agreement or disagreement on the method used, is it practical or logical to call for things to be returned to how they were before 2 August 1990, including the return of the sheikhs of Kuwait who spent their time hoarding wealth and women to the extent that some of them became unable to recognize their own children in view of their great number. Indeed the situation was such that one of them one day expressed his desire to marry a young girl whom he had come across by chance on a previous occasion, only to discover that the girl in question was in fact one of his own daughters, God save us all....

On 5 August 1990, it was agreed that an Arab summit conference would be held amongst Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iraq in order to discuss the new situation and find a solution to the crisis. Instead of convening this conference to which the parties concerned had all agreed, we were surprised to see the idea of the conference frozen by the friends of the United States which had given them instructions to that effect, with the arrival of the armies in the land of Arab and Islamic sanctities in the Arabian Peninsula, and by the other resolutions of the United States. This was how we and the international community lost the chance for an Arab solution for a calm inter-Arab discussion of the issue. While this has been the case in the current crisis we know that both the United States and its allies had encouraged an Arab solution to the Lebanese question for which an Arab committee was formed with an encouragement of the United States and the subsequent blessing of the Security Council.

Saudi Arabia was the prime mover in that affair. You know ladies and gentlemen, that the people of Lebanon have been a more vital contribution to humanity than the sheikhs of Kuwait could ever do. Yet we see the U.S. Administration exerting tireless efforts to appease the ruler of Syria who occupies Lebanon. The statements issued in Damascus at the end of Baker's visit on 13-14 instant reveal this fact.

The question is therefore one of politics not of principles contrary to what Bush has tried to tell us in his message to the people of Iraq. Since the issue is political one, not one of principles in actual U.S. policy and since the question remains to be a matter of opinion in which each one views matters on the basis of his own judgement and interests, let us then resort to the dialogue rather than to arms as the road to a common understanding and

acceptable solutions. In such a situation the Arabs will be better equipped to resolve their problems amongst themselves. If it is desired that the international community should participate in resolving the crisis and problems of the region as a whole, then the best course to adopt towards this end will be what we called for in our initiative of 12 August 1990, when we proposed that all the issues of the region, in Palestine, Lebanon and the Gulf should be discussed together and on the same level in the Security Council with a view to arriving at the same principles and criteria to be applied to all issues while taking into consideration the special nature and background of each one of them.

This will be the way than can seriously lead to a comprehensive and lasting solution to all problems and crises of the region, in the forefront of which is the Palestinian question without whose solution the region can never regain its peace or stability.

Those who view with responsibility the security of the region must address all the factors preceding the 2 August 1990 beginning with the Palestinian question and the occupation of Lebanon by the Syrian Army. They should also view the question of Kuwait with realism and in the light of its historical background as an integral part of Iraq. We have proposed that initiative which seeks to resolve all outstanding issues in the region in a manner that ensures the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace and security. Do you know what has happened, ladies and gentlemen? Bush rejected our initiative even before seeing its text, and when we knew that the U.S. Administration was planning military action against Iraq based in the beginning on the false pretext that Iraq had intended to invade Saudi Arabia, a pretext dismissed by naked facts, it occurred to us that one of the means of giving the U.S. Administration a better chance for thinking while allowing all parties concerned additional time which could be used for dialogue, would be to keep some foreigners, including U.S. citizens as guests in the houses of our staff at the scientific and economic establishments. This measure, was used along with others in order to prevent the outbreak of a devastating war whose damage would be incalculable to those rushing to it. In any event we are only human and we feel the pain of having had to take this measure, in spite of the facts that there are those who keep telling us that the imposition of an economic blockade against Iraq, depriving its people of their food, medicine and even children's milk, is in itself an act of war which allows us under international law to detain the subjects of the countries responsible for the blockade. This was what the U.S.A. Government itself did, during the Second World War, when it detained even its own citizens of Japanese origin. Yet I still say that we are truly pained by this and wish to see the people of Iraq and the National Assembly given any guarantees or undertakings from the United States of America pledging its commitments not to launch war and aggression against Iraq, a pledge that would enable us immediately to allow all foreigners to leave the country if they so wished. This was what we proposed in our initiative of 19 August 1990, which was again rejected by the U.S. Administration immediately and without prior discussion or consideration. I have expressed publicly my desire to enter a tv debate or discussion with Mr Bush in order to let the world public opinion, including that of the American people know the facts in detail. But Mr Bush has turned down this proposal which is why you find me forced now to burden you with details. A public tv discussion with Mr Bush would have generated greater vitality and for viewers everywhere and given them a better chance to make their own judgements.

In spite of this, however, Mr Bush has complained to you that he could not predict what Saddam Husayn would do or know how Saddam Husayn would think. I ask you in God's name, how could Mr Bush know Saddam Husayn or his comrades in the leadership when Mr Bush refuses to have a direct discussion with Saddam Husayn or enter into direct debate with him on television?

When we invite Mr Bush to a discussion we do not mean to beg his or any party's acceptance of the idea. We proposed the debate basically of our respect for world public opinion including the public opinion of the United States. Our objective in such a debate is only to disclose the lies and false allegations so that people are better informed of the issue in question and hence better equipped to make their own decision on the bases of what they see as clear and concrete facts.

Should not the opportunity of the debate or the discussion be seized upon by the parties concerned in order that opponents may come to know more about each other? If only Mr Bush viewed the matter in a truly responsible and serious manner, free from any preconceived objectives, would he still have refused to enter into the proposed tv debate. If Mr Bush had truth in his side, why should he evade a direct debate or discussion?

Saddam Husayn's way of thinking is no deep secret as Mr Bush seems to suggest. Saddam Husayn's comrades in the leadership, the people of Iraq and the Arab nation as well as the good people all over the world know him well and can draw their own conclusions about what he is to say in relation to any forthcoming measures taken towards public events which call for a response through words or action. There is nothing hidden in the policy of Iraq, but Mr Bush has no agents planted in our leadership, nor does he have many spies in our society as indeed some of the U.S. authorities concerned have publicly complained.

If Mr Bush and other professional politicians in the West wanted to know more about the leadership in Iraq then we say the following: The leadership of Iraq is a group of God-fearing mortals, sharing the beliefs of all true worshippers of God aspiring to please the Almighty, devoted to the service of their people, refusing to serve tyrants, unenticed by temptation, and unintimidated by the threats of tyranny. We serve our people and nation deeply and sincerely, and through this service we see

ourselves to be serving humanity at large. We are proud to refuse serving tyrants. We protect with our very eyes the rights and the resources of our people. We neither plunder our people's wealth nor keep it to ourselves in banks as is being done by the allies, nay the servants, of the U.S. Administration amongst the rulers of the region. We are serious when we address matters of importance, compassionate amongst ourself and towards all god-fearing and genuine servants of God. Firm in the face of blasphemy, injustice and the exploitation that oppress and starve the poor. We do not bend in the fight for truth, and are fair in determining what we should take or give. We reject the subjugation of people by any force and called for liberty to be granted to all as commanded by God....Whenever called upon, we remain fighters in the service of god and truth, freedom fighters against injustice and its perpetrators, always true to our word. If these signs are sufficient enough for the right conclusion to be made by the U.S. Administration or others, then this means that those concerned do not value these qualities, or deem them necessary in those whom they regard to be their friends amongst the rulers of the region. They are not used to seeing any of these attributes in those rules, a fact for which we bear no guilt. The guilt is theirs and it is they alone who will bear the consequence. The day for which we prepare ourselves is the day of judgement before God, our people and history, when steps, God forbid, go astray.

We respect world public opinion when it is given the chance to be formed only on objective and fair bases. Anything other than this will be something planted by the devils and can only lead to the abyss, yielding no fruit and bringing nothing but vice to its reaper. The impact of God's punishment will be as heavy as the acts of those tempted to go astray.

We, as a people and a nation, ladies and gentlemen, desire peace as much as do the good amongst you. We want peace but we want it to be comprehensive and durable, rather than just a temporary and superficial arrangement leading to an even more violent explosion at a later stage. We do not want war in which we have had enough experience and whose details are well-known to us. While our difficult circumstances and the war have provided us with resilience required for the responsibility and the honour of defending our homeland and principles, those same circumstances and the war provided us with ample opportunities to consider deeply and patiently any step which we may take, while holding the responsibility of such a step in honour and firmness. We fear no threats from tyrants and will not fall prey to their temptation.

Mr Bush, ladies and gentlemen, is sending your sons to a war that has no human value or meaning save fatal arrogance fueled by the capabilities of a superpower used to issuing commands which the weaks have to obey.... All must remember that God is omnipotent. Mr Bush wants to bring back the sorrows of the United States and humanity by repeating the Vietnam experience—only this time the ordeal will be more violent, demanding greater sacrifices and bigger losses.

Bush tells you, ladies and gentlemen, that he and others are capable of inflicting quick strikes against their targets and end the war that way. You should know, however, (and here I don't mean to issue a threat, for we threaten no one, but only to describe faithfully how we see things and what our decisions are)...You should know that if Mr Bush decided to start a war, it would not be up to him to stop that war. The end of such a war would very much be linked to its impact and to the result of the people that has decided to confront tyranny with unyielding strength for as long as this people and its nation remain on the side of truth.

The United States, ladies and gentlemen, will not lose anything if the devil of aggression and war were to be removed from Mr Bush's eyebrows and if the means of war and destruction were to be removed from the area and the burden of occupation and degradation of Arab and Moslem sanctities were to be lifted. But the Iraqis and the Arabs, on the other hand, would lose their humanity and their opportunity for a free life in dignity, should Mr Bush have his way in achieving the desire of his ill-motivated self. The Arabs would be in a circumstance, void of honour or meaning, and without a presence to be proud of or a future ensuring life for them and their children. Whenever we have talked in the past and whenever we find it our duty to remind others of the qualities of the Iraqi people and its human role, of the qualities of the Arab nation and its human role, we also remind of the depth of civilization established through their minds and efforts, of the culture which they pioneered to the benefit of humanity as a whole, when we say that the depth of civilization in Iraq stretches back to more than 5,000 years and that it was Iraq which first taught mankind the form of script and writing more than 5,000 years ago. Hammourabi enacted his famous code around 4,500 years ago. The lands of the Arabs have always been, by God's choice, the place of descent for divine messages and the cradle for God's messengers. The Arabs have always been and still are the apostles of the constant faith entrusted with the task of spreading the word of God all over the world.

The guidance and faith that have reached your hearts, ladies and gentlemen, have been conveyed to you by the Arab faithfuls. We have never placed Iraq or the Arab nation above humanity in anything we said in the past. Nor do we threaten anybody with the qualities of the people of Iraq and the Arab nation although the depth of the qualities must be linked with the depth of civilization, qualities such as endurance, patience, resilience to adversity and readiness to fight in the defence of truth.

As he addressed his message to the people of Iraq, Mr Bush wanted to voice a threat when he talked about the qualities of the people of the United States by saying: "As Americans, there is no nation on earth with greater resolve or stronger steadiness of purpose. [no closing

quotation marks as received] He also placed the American people above other nations when he gave himself the right to lead mankind and all states in his address to the U.S. Congress on 11 September 1990. In this way Bush is, in fact, promoting a form of neo-nazism. God is the one and only. He alone is the one unchallenged supreme leader of mankind and the universe. Any claim deviating from this is a false claim void of truth and bound to be repelled.

Glory is not achieved by aggressive force but through justice, fairness and good example. Humanity would see virtue in the modesty shown by those blessed with power by the grace of God, the power which God remains capable of taking back, if they fail to show modesty and persist along their path of ignorance.

The glory that comes from power alone can be removed by counter power. It is indeed a glory doomed to oblivion from the moment at which it begins to be built on the bases of aggressive force .

Mr Bush talked to Congress on 11 September 1990 about the influence of strength and vitality as the two elements of leadership. He made no mention of God and did not speak of wisdom. If man loses the bond between his work and God, he loses his spirit. If he loses wisdom, he will even if he continues to possess strength and vitality, loses human respect and influence, because he will not be accurate in what he says and does. [sentence as received]

I do not think that you will disagree with me that whoever loses his soul and respect of others will lose everything.

Indeed, more important than anything else is the fact that Bush tells you that he brought his armies and the armies of his allies to our region to defend the lifestyle of the American people, irrespective of the selfish undertones of this statement in which the speaker fails to see the interests of others while pursuing his own, and of the particular danger it carries to humanity as a whole if it were to maintain its generalized dimension, you ought to ask Mr Bush who is actually threatens the lifestyle of the American people. [sentence as received] Have the Arabs or Iraqis ever threatened the lifestyle of the American people? He tells you that he came here to the land of our nation to protect oil and that Iraq should not be allowed to possess 20 percent of the oil reserves.

Iraq sells its oil on the usual market in the West. Iraq sells oil to the United States and the West in general. That was the case up to 2 August 1990, when Iraq was selling one third of its oil to the U.S. alone. In any event, if Mr Bush wanted to issue a new law by which to decide the percentage allowed to any given country of any particular resource or commodity, including the resources of the United States such as grains, then I suggest that Mr Bush should submit a proposal to that effect to the United Nations. It will then be up to the U.N to take a decision which will have to be complied with by all nations and accommodated in the U.N Charter.

But if Mr Bush thinks that he can subjugate humanity and interfere in the details of its life and resources then he is mistaken. This policy on his part is bound to isolate the U.S from the rest of the world, and make it loathed and despised. It will also cause those who perpetrate this policy to be cursed till the day of judgement. I don't wish to burden you with more, but you ought to remember that thousands of children may die of malnutrition due to the lack of children's milk and that the health of many people will deteriorate for lack of adequate food and their life will be in danger.

The blockade on the supplies of food, children's milk and medical needs has been a measure initiated by the U.S and the Bush administration in violation of the U.N Charter and of international norms.

President Waldheim stated on his visit to Baghdad on 25 August 1990, that such inhuman action cannot be compared in its impact with any other action regardless of the different descriptions given to it.

This action came from a party to which no threat was posed while Iraq, in spite of the threats posed to its sovereignty and security and to the security of its nation, did not take any measure similar to that action, or matching it in any description, motive, form or shape. Those who talk about foreigners being prevented from travel ought to remember that the whole people of Iraq is now prevented from travel and confined to its borders in view of the measures taken against its means of travel, the last of which being the proposal made by certain parties for the imposition of an air blockade against our civil aviation. Have you ever know or heard about measures as boorish, inhumane and unjust as these measures? [sentence as received]

When Bush is asked why he opposed the reunification of Iraq and Kuwait while supporting that of Germany and not objecting to the unity in other parts, he may say to you that he is not against unity but he opposes annexation by force. Without going into details and arguments, you can inform Bush that the sheikhs of Kuwait were themselves installed by British force. They did not come to rule through democracy or election. Kuwait too had been severed from Iraq by force, and all the attempts for reunification which I have described and which were made through democratic means, including the 1938 attempts of the Legislative Council in Kuwait, were suppressed. Kuwait, Iraq's severed part, has been used as a base of conspiracy against Iraq instead of being the part that should support it. There was no other alternative better than what was done, ladies and gentlemen. And we thank God for what has happened.

The claim made by Bush that the majority of the Arabs are with him is inaccurate, I do not want to describe it in other terms. If the desire is there to ascertain the position of the Arab nation, let Mr Bush agree to the setting up of a working group comprising members of the U.S. Congress to meet with representatives of the people of Iraq from the National Assembly with a view to conducting a

joint investigation into and assessment of the information and facts relating to the situation.

Mr Bush has to promise U.N in advance, however, that he will let you know the true facts as they are, in which case you will have known for certain that the Arab nation stands entirely with Iraq, and that the people of this nation, along with the Moslems of the world rejects the presence of your armies on the land of Moslem sanctities in the Arabian Peninsula. This nation is on the side of truth not falsehood and no one should be deceived by a bunch of mercenaries, weaklings and traitors trembling with the confines of their hiding-places for fear of the people's anger, especially now that they have been isolated from their course of truth persued by the faithful. [sentence as received]

The U.S. Administration, ladies and gentlemen, is placing you in a critically embarrassing situation in addition to the fact that it places you along with us and the whole of mankind on the edge of a bottomless abyss. The U.S. Administration is causing you embarrassment as Americans in that it keeps talking about and dragging over democracy while allying itself to the most backward of governments, governments which are most unrepresentative of their people, most distant from democracy and most distant from God, the one the omnipotent and the almighty.

The people of Iraq have expressed their view through their demonstrations when they took to the streets in roaring waves protesting what Bush has said in his message to them.

They came out immediately after the broadcast of his message in every town and village in Iraq.

I have hereby said my word to you on behalf of the leadership in iraq. Indeed on behalf of all true Arabs and Moslems.

God is the source of success

God is great

"There are those who on being told "Your enemy had mustered

great force against you, fear them," grew more tenacious in

their faith and replied: Allah's help is all sufficient for

us. He is the best protector." Sadaqa allahu al-adhim (God's is the word of truth). [Koranic verse]

AL-TADAMUN Interviews Tariq 'Aziz

JN2509142090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 24 Sep 90 pp 9-13

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by chief editor Fu'ad Matar in Baghdad on 14 September]

[Text] [Matar] When we talk about "the Arab solution," what do we mean? Is it one of those many initiatives around or is it a plan not yet finalized? What are the characteristics of such a solution?

['Aziz] When we talk about the Arab solution, we must adhere to principle. There is a certain Arab situation with different attitudes toward it. There are also differences on how problems can be solved and how stability and normal Arab relations can be restored. There must be some Arab method, therefore. From the outset, we were ready to discuss the matter within an Arab context. On 3 August 1990, His Majesty King Husayn visited us and told the president that he had contacted King Fahd, President Mubarak, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and that they all agreed to hold a summit in Jeddah on 4 or 5 August to discuss developments. The president accepted the idea of the summit, but said that he might not be able to attend personally because of the current situation. He said Iraq would be represented by a delegation capable of presenting Iraq's viewpoint.

On the following day, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih visited us and discussed the subject, and we renewed our readiness to attend. We were told that King Fahd would contact us to extend the invitation, and we waited on Sunday but the invitation did not come; it did not come on Monday either, and on Tuesday, we discovered that U.S. forces had arrived in Saudi Arabia. I personally saw the U.S. defense secretary on television saying that President Bush ordered him on Sunday, the day the mini summit was to be held, to leave immediately for Saudi Arabia. He left on Sunday, arrived Monday morning, and met with King Fahd in the evening. At that meeting, it was decided to implement the plan of U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia. We conclude from this that the first Arab attempt was aborted by Saudi Arabia itself.

On the day following the arrival of U.S. forces; that is, on Wednesday 8 August 1990, the Egyptian president called for a summit without consulting anyone; he extended the invitation via the radio. Nevertheless, we attended, and it was clear that the invitation for the summit meant, without doubt, a summit without President Saddam Husayn, because it was not possible for the president at that particular time, when the skies were full of U.S. planes transporting troops to Saudi Arabia, to fly to Cairo. A summit without President Saddam Husayn was clearly the intended aim. When an invitation to a summit without the attendance of President Saddam Husayn is extended, and when the invitation comes immediately after the arrival of U.S. forces, it means taking the Arab solution out of consideration. For, how could the Arab leaders consider an Arab solution after the foreigners had been invited in, and when the main negotiator—President Saddam Husayn—was absent?

Despite this, we went to Cairo. We were told that the summit was for holding a dialogue, but on the next day, and shortly before the opening session, we found ourselves faced with a paper prepared in advance and approved by 10 countries. We were surprised, and so were the others who had not been consulted. We felt that something had been "cooked" and that the decision had

already been made--namely, inviting foreign forces in and calling for the dispatch of Arab forces to add the required decoration. Hence, we concluded that there was a plan and insistence on aborting the Arab solution. Some leaders considered setting up a committee to discuss the subject and to visit Baghdad to talk with President Saddam Husayn, but the Egyptian president suppressed these attempts rudely and in a manner unprecedented in Arab meetings. What was wanted, clearly, was to get the seal of approval for foreign intervention.

Since the foreign intervention began, which has been supported by the parties that drew up the Cairo paper, plotting against the Arab solution and gambling on the U.S. solution began. The U.S. solution is aimed at committing aggression against Iraq and imposing U.S.—and consequently Israeli—hegemony over the entire region. Naturally, the national Arab forces, sincere leaderships, and national popular movements do not accept that, and they continue to look for an Arab solution.

We have no ready-made solutions in hand. Regarding the point concerning our view of an Arab solution, we say there are essential Arab problems that must be resolved within the Arab framework. The United States and its followers concentrate on one issue, which is the situation in Kuwait, and they ignore the other major problems in the Arab world. These problems create military, political, economic, and security Arab instability. Therefore, they tip the balance in favor of Israel and the United States against the Arabs. This is against the objective we sought at the Baghdad summit when we sought to formulate a new Arab order that not only creates a military balance to counter the Israeli and U.S. threat, but also a military, political, and security balance so that we can enter a new phase.

We used to compare this phase to European unity. We can achieve something like what the Europeans have achieved and move on to a new phase. However, what happened was that plotting began for striking against Arab power in Iraq, which constituted the nucleus or the major basis of military balance, and to return the region to U.S. hegemony.

The Arab solution remains essential, even if it is not available today or tomorrow. It remains essential because we are one Arab nation and should resolve our problems as an Arab nation; but this solution should not be based on deals, where a deal is prepared behind the scenes and the issue ends on its basis. An Arab solution is the one that deals with the roots of Arab problems and brings about a new political, economic, and military Arab order that covers all aspects of the new Arab order.

[Matar] What do you have to say about the proposed Arab initiatives?

['Aziz] Ideas are being proposed, but they are still immature. I cannot comment on these ideas, but I repeat what I have said in my answer to the first question: An Arab solution can lead us to a new Arab order. The solution, as I indicated, should not be mechanical or a deal. It must establish the new Arab order.

[Matar] You say the invitation for the Cairo summit was unconventional. Is calling for a summit through a statement broadcast over the radio or by an official news agency not considered an official invitation?

['Aziz] We did not discuss formalities. We heard the invitation over the radio and went there because there was an Arab meeting. We attend meetings. We did not argue about formalities, but what happened was a matter concerning the content. The invitation for the summit came after the arrival of U.S. forces. This is a very important fact in the issue. The Egyptian president did not seek dialogue and did not propose ideas for discussion in order to develop them later into a committee to discuss resolutions or points of view. He and those who sided with him surprised us the next day—without any discussions—with a draft resolution laid out on our chairs. We came to the session and found that a paper had been distributed. Afterward, the Egyptian president opened the session, delivered a speech, and concluded the session with a call for another meeting.

We returned to the meeting at six o'clock. He did not allow any time for discussion, but asked us to approve the resolution. The voting was held under pressure, and he announced the end of the session and left. He did not even respect the formalities in the final speech; he neither greeted those attending nor thanked them for accepting the invitation, as is the case in all conferences. Such formalities are taken into consideration, even in ministerial meetings, so what would be the case in summit meetings? The Egyptian president reached a conclusion that a formal majority supported the paper, and he said: The session is over. He left the hall while his guests were still sitting. This shows that what was wanted was merely a farce in which the Arab leaders would meet to rubberstamp a prepared resolution in order for it to be said that this was an Arab decision, which would give a false legitimacy to the American presence in the region and to the American solution to the issue.

[Matar] In light of King Hassan II's contact with you and the cordial treatment accorded to his personal envoy, who visited you and who was received by President Saddam Husayn despite Moroccan forces' deployment in Saudi Arabia—is this a special case with Morocco only, or is it a step indicating that the road is open between Iraq and countries deploying forces in Saudi Arabia, and that the channels of dialogue are open and can be further activated?

['Aziz] We on our part have not cut off the lines of communication; they cut them off. We are still open for dialogue with any party, even the United States. I informed the U.S. charge d'affaires officially that we are ready for dialogue. And when an envoy of a president of an Arab state visits us, we welcome him and listen to his opinion. This was the case with the envoy of King Hassan II.

[Matar] This happens when somebody comes to visit you. Is there an intention to embark on initiatives with Saudi Arabia for example?

['Aziz] If there is a readiness for a dialogue, Iraq does not hold back from it.

[Matar] When the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] was established, there was an atmosphere of optimism. And Egypt's departure indicated that harmony among the members of the Council was not real. Will the Council remain, or has it ended with Egypt's departure?

['Aziz] The experiment of the ACC was an honest and earnest attempt we made to form what we called for, that is, a new Arab order. You know that, since the beginning of the 80's, President Saddam Husayn has been calling for a new Arab order. In February 1980, he called for a new Arab order based on the charter he proposed on that date. At the Amman summit held in the same year, he reiterated the call. The war then came and obstructed—in addition to the initiatives—our capabilities to implement our ideas.

With the end of the war, President Saddam Husayn renewed the call for his ideas through the agreements he presented to the Arab countries—not to use force to solve problems, not to interfere in internal problems, the need for more interest in the serious economic contrast between the Arab countries, and holding to fraternal dealings among the Arab countries.

At the Casablanca summit, he spoke strongly about the Arab situation in Lebanon and the violations against Lebanese sovereignty. We then sought to establish the ACC within this framework. However, the Egyptian Government acted after these events in a way completely contrary to the direction in which we sought to work in accordance with Egypt and our brothers in the ACC. This [Egyptian] Government showed that it was a satellite of the United States.

I cannot foretell the future and cannot know whether or not the ACC will remain. However, I wonder: How can we work within the framework of such a council while there are two stands: A national stand on one side and a stand that is subservient to America on the other?

[Matar] We note that the United States sent a taped message from President Bush to the Iraqi people on the same day it dispatched Secretary Baker to Damascus. Was this meant to provoke you, or is there something deeper?

['Aziz] Concerning the Syrian regime, I say that it took the American side at the Cairo meeting, contrary to its public slogans. This again proves that the slogans of the Syrian regime are one thing and its actual policies are something else. It is completely against Iraq. This time, it did not even bother to keep the flimsy veil behind which it hid during the Iraq-Iran war, when it said that it appeased Iran because it regarded it as a reserve force against imperialism and Israel. It openly chose to side with the American camp, and we were not surprised because we knew the nature of this regime, which is essentially opposed to anything pan-Arab.

As for the U.S. President's taped statement, the Americans—and I mean the U.S. Administration—were displeased with Iraq's several messages to the American people, such as the president's messages during his visit to the foreign guests and his many initiatives, which were carried live on the U.S. television network, CNN, whose coverage of the Iraqi attitude has been good. This displeased the administration. As usual, the Americans resorted to blackmail. They said: We also want to talk to the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people are politically conscious and they hear what the Americans say on the radio all the time. They can also draw their own conclusions. Nevertheless, we said alright, if you want to address a message from Iraqi television, send it. We will broadcast it and we might reply to it. (The message was broadcast on 16 September 1990 and popular Iraqi demonstrations followed the broadcast.)

[Matar] Do you think that the U.S. President's aim was to hold a dialogue, or to create embarrassment?

['Aziz] He intended to embarrass us on the basis that the U.S. television networks broadcast many interviews with President Saddam Husayn and others and, therefore, reciprocal treatment was in order. They thought we would not welcome this. They would then go back to American public opinion, which began to listen attentively to President Saddam Husayn, and say: Look what Iraq is doing. It does not give a chance to the other viewpoint. We said: We are prepared to hear the other viewpoint, and it will have no effect on our people. Here I would like to point out that an ordinary Iraqi citizen, when asked by the television commentator about Bush's address, gave a very significant answer in very elementary and simple English. He said: We hear Bush and believe Saddam.

[Matar] How do you view the Helsinki summit? Do you think that what was reported did not include everything that was agreed? Do you base your position on what was reported, or on what was not? Is the fact that President Bush did not recognize objective Iraqi realities; namely, Iraq's leadership, its important oil role, and its military strength, was one of the causes of the crisis and that such recognition could have been the key to a solution? Furthermore, does the USSR recognize these realities, which President Bush does not recognize?

['Aziz] I was in Moscow only days before the Helsinki summit was held and I held profound talks with the Soviet president. I conveyed our viewpoint to him and listened to his views on the political matters that I presented to him; namely, that if the Americans imagined that they would be satisfied with a military action, or that the military action that they intend to mount would be confined to what they call a "surgical operation," they would be harboring an illusion, because we

will fight them and continue to fight them in defense of our sovereignty and rights and will strike at their interests as far as our arms can reach. We have the resources and determination to do that.

I also told President Gorbachev that the battle with America enjoys formidable popular support in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and that people, in fact, are longing for struggle against the United States. We will not initiate military action, but this fact must be taken into consideration, because the public in our country and the Islamic world at large is eager for such a battle. This means the people will continue the fight and will attack U.S. interests whenever possible. I also stressed to him that we do not fear U.S. threats, and that if the Americans think they frighten us by their buildup, then they are mistaken. If there was a desire for a peaceful solution, on the other hand, then we would be ready. But what kind of a peaceful solution? The solution must be just and involve all problems in the region, because to the Arab people, the destiny of the Shaykh of Kuwait is not more important than the destiny of Jerusalem.

I also told President Gorbachev that every citizen in Iraq, Jerusalem, Morocco, or Algeria considers the fate of Jerusalem a million times more important than the fate of an ignorant, reactionary shaykh who seized and squandered the wealth of the nation.

The Americans, of course, have their priorities, and we as Arabs have our own priorities. After all, the Arabs cannot possibly shed their Arab skin. I do not know to what extent these ideas and principles were conveyed to the U.S. side, but we felt from the Helsinki summit that the Soviet Union did not support the U.S. military blockade, underscored a peaceful settlement, and pointed out the importance of the Arab factor in dealing with the situation, which is a central point among those I made to the Soviet president.

The solution must be Arab, and if we talk about international participation, then this participation must lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question, because the issue has obvious international dimensions. But the situation in the Gulf cannot be solved except by the Arabs. An international solution is out of the question, at least at the first stage.

Soviet talk about an Arab solution at the Helsinki summit shows some understanding of our position, but we must not be deluded. The USSR is weak in the face of the United States, and it cannot come up with a position parallel to the U.S. position. The U.S. position in the equation is more effective than the Soviet position, regardless of the true nature of the Soviet position. This is a fact. So far, there are two superpowers, but some big countries are weaker than other big countries, and this was made clear by the Security Council resolutions: the Soviets would say things or talk about things in a language different than the American language, but at the end of the day, they would vote for the resolutions formulated by the Americans and the West.

Concerning Bush's acknowledgement of Iraq's status, I say that the U.S. Administration and the colonialist reactionary forces in the West, which are under the influence of Zionism, began their campaign against Iraq once the cease-fire with Iran was reached, and it became clear to us that they wanted the war with Iran to continue or, if it stopped, that Iraq should come out weak and preoccupied with its wounds so that it could not play an independent Arab role. But when they discovered that Iraq came out of the war militarily strong and with high spirits and pan-Arab view toward the future, they immediately moved into full attack against it. Campaigns against us have become common since August 1988. You live in the West and feel it. Every U.S., British, French, Dutch, or other newspaper or magazine, and all other news media along the U.S. line or under the Zionist influence, want to destroy or weaken Iraq and portray it as a threat to the world.

I was talking with a lady working for a U.S. television network this morning. I said to her: A few months ago a magazine—I believe it was NEWSWEEK—described President Saddam Husayn as the American people's number one enemy. Why? I asked. Neither President Saddam nor his government had, up to that date, done any harm to the people or government of the United States. We had killed none of you, and perpetrated no unfriendly or illegal act against the people or Government of the United States. We were selling oil to the United States and buying wheat and other commodities [from it]. And we now want normal relations based on mutual respect. Nevertheless, they portrayed our leader as the enemy number one of the American people. Why? Because he said: If Israel attacks us, we will retaliate. What is required, then, is that no political, economic, nor military Arab force that can balance the Israeli threat should arise in the region. Amid the current reshuffling of cards in the region, we—the Arabs—should make the correct conclusion; namely, that there is American-Western determination—and I do not exclude the Western countries that adopted relatively moderate stands during the seventies and the eighties—that an independent Arab force that can consolidate Arab independence must not emerge. They plotted against and annihilated Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, and turned Egypt into an American farm. They forced the wealthy oil states to move in their orbit. This was proved by the developments in August. These states; that is, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, are American protectorates. An independent force with pan-Arab vision in Iraq is, therefore, prohibited. And it is not only a question of oil. Egypt had no oil, and yet the force established by 'Abd-al-Nasir as an independent force with a future vision had to be destroyed. Regardless of our differences with 'Abd-al-Nasir at that time, we must admit that the man had pan-Arab vision.

Talking about oil, we wonder: Why does Bush approve of Fahd possessing 15 or 16 percent of world oil reserves, of Jabir al-Ahmad possessing 10 percent, and of Shaykh Zayid possessing seven or eight percent, and yet rejects

Iraq possessing 20 percent? If it has to do with selling and buying, then this matter is of no concern to him, because Iraq is ready to sell its oil for reasonable prices. When U.S. television asked me what we would do if we controlled 20 percent of world oil reserves, I said: Every salesman cares about buyers. Those who sell cars care about those who buy cars, and those who set for their cars prices that buyers cannot afford will be making a mistake. The same applies to oil. Yes, we want better prices than the old ones, which declined as a result of the deliberate policy of the former Kuwaiti rulers and the rulers of the United Arab Emirates, but we must seek a price that the buyers can afford; otherwise, we cannot sell our oil and earn money.

Moreover, when we make better earnings from this basic commodity, what are we going to do with the money? We are a government with experience. We spend the money on our people; we improve the standard of living; this would mean development—factories, universities, schools, and electricity stations.

[Matar] How did you find the brothers in Iran? When, do you think, the Iraqi-Iranian accord will be achieved? How deep is confidence between you? And what can we say to those who found in Iraqi-Iranian normalization, as it happened, a return to the starting point?

['Aziz] We assessed the visit I and the Iraqi delegation paid to Iran as positive. This is the first visit at this level since 1979. It followed President Saddam Husayn's 14 August initiative in which he expressed Iraq's readiness to withdraw, exchange prisoners of war [POW's], and establish relations in accordance with the principles outlined in the message to the Iranian leadership. When we visited Tehran, the withdrawal had already been accomplished and the exchange of POW's had started. Both of us found that we were going through a new phase with the road open to normal relations and good neighborliness. We stressed the desire to establish normal relations with Iran, and the Iranians did the same.

I cannot predict more than what I have said. However, I can say that we welcome more openness in relations with Iran. And nor can I predict because this process must be built carefully and step by step. Within two days, we will receive an Iranian delegation to follow up some points that were raised during my visit to Tehran. The Iranian foreign minister will visit us in response to our visit to Tehran. Thus, we can reach the objectives sought from our visit—namely, comprehensive and lasting peace and neighborly relations.

Describing the normalization of relations between Iraq and Iran, or describing President Saddam Husayn's initiative as a return to square one or a relinquishment of the previous position is an clumsy and tendentious description. Essential facts must be taken into account. Iran seriously threatened Iraq in 1979 and 1980; it also threatened the region. In 1990, when President Saddam Husayn launched his initiatives and sent messages to the Iranian leadership—between April and 14 August 1990—Iraq was not threatened by Iran. It went through the experience and emerged strong and healthy from it. When a person is threatened, he acts one way and when he is strong and healthy he acts in light of the power and vigor he possesses. This happens throughout the world.

Let us take the situation now between Iraq and the West. Had the West abandoned its threat to Iraq, would we continue to call for struggle over radio, television, and press? Why? If the West does not threaten us or encroach on our interests, why do not we speak with normal language and establish normal relations? Therefore, this is the equation that governs relations among peoples and countries. When you are threatened you defend yourself, and when you are strong and healthy, and when the threats from the other side stop, reason dictates a different approach.

[Matar] As a writer and journalist, I understand the Iraqi position. Some foreign colleagues in the BBC asked me one question: What is President Saddam relying on in the confrontation? My answer was always summarized after explanation in the following way: Saddam relies on himself, on his belief in his cause, on God in the first place, and on the justice of his cause. Does he rely on other things?

['Aziz] No. You have put your finger on the truth.

[Matar] What I mean by other things is his reliance on a very dangerous weapon.

['Aziz] Weapons are made by men. If we have a dangerous or less-dangerous weapon, it is made by us. And if we rely on it, this is not unusual. President Saddam Husayn relies precisely on the fairness of the cause for which we are struggling; he also relies on his people's belief in this cause, on his people's unlimited readiness for sacrifice and their defiance of death, and on the Arab nation, which stands on his side in the battle.

The picture is clear to me. The Arab nation—as a nation—is with Saddam Husayn in this battle. The corrupt governments and politicians are linked with America. This is another subject. The nation in its essence and conscience is with Saddam Husayn in this battle. If the leader is convinced that his cause is fair and his people support him, what more does he need to wage the battle? The leader that has this asset and does not wage the battle is not a leader. In this battle, Saddam Husayn is in harmony with the will of his people and the Arab nation. He speaks of the capability of the people of Iraq and the Arab nation to offer the required sacrifices that will lead us to victory. We are optimistic.

Food to Vietnamese Hostages To End 1 Oct

AU2609144290 Paris AFP in English
1353 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Geneva, Sept 26 (AFP)—A total 16,137 Vietnamese workers are in a highly precarious situation in Iraq following an announcement by the Iraqi authorities

that they will receive no more food from next Monday, the Vietnamese ambassador to the United Nations here said Wednesday.

More than 11,000 of the Vietnamese are at Al Mawsil, some 100 kilometres (60 miles) from the Turkish border, 4,000 are in or around Baghdad and 2,000 are at Al Basrah, the ambassador Hoan Tran [spelling as received] said.

The health of 5,000 of them is already "critical" due to lack of nourishment, he stressed.

The ambassador has called on the United Nations to help evacuate the Vietnamese from Iraq. He envisaged that the operation would take eight to 12 days at least.

Some two million foreigners are still in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

Officials of the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) also said Wednesday they were worried about the situation of 34,000 Gulf refugees in Jordan, where the weather is expected to turn cold and wet next month.

A Pakistani representative for his part criticised UNDRO, saying that 96 per cent of Pakistani nationals already repatriated had received no help from the organisation.

Those who tried to leave by private car at the start of the crisis had been forced by the Iraqi authorities to abandon their vehicles and continue on foot, and some had died, he said.

A World Health Organisation (WHO) official said that the camps set up in Jordan in August when it was hot were of light material and would be inadequate when winter came on, and that wet weather would increase the risk of epidemics.

Jordan, which has born the brunt of the refugee influx from Iraq since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, also urgently needs money and food.

Some 7,000 people are arriving daily in the Jordanian camps, where they spend an average of four days before moving on, UNDRO official Philippe Boulle said on his return from Jordan.

So far, the daily evacuation of about 8,000 people had permitted a gradual reduction of the numbers in the camps, but lack of means and above all transport problems that rain would bring on unmetalled roads could create an impossible situation for those in charge of evacuation operations.

Another problem they have had to deal with is the many refugees having double nationality and who, after several years' residence in Kuwait or Iraq, had lost everything in the upheaval.

Then there is the issue of rehabilitation which those fleeing will face once back in their own countries. Some had nothing left but the clothes they were wearing and they had to be helped, the representative of Sri Lanka said.

UNDRO has reiterated an appeal to countries which have pledged aid to fulfil their promises rapidly.

The European Economic Community has, according to its representative, provided emergency or food aid of 104 million dollars in a little over a month for foreigners caught up in the crisis.

Palestinian Front Leader Reiterates Support

TV Interview

JN2309134990 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1840 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], has stressed that the true objective behind the U.S. military intervention in the region is to control and impose hegemony over the Arab nation's resources.

In an interview aired by Baghdad television tonight, he said that the U.S. military intervention would not have taken this size or shape had some Arab regimes not colluded with U.S. imperialism. He reiterated the Palestinian people's support for President Saddam Husayn's genuine pan-Arab stands which clearly seek to realize comprehensive solutions to all the region's issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

He added that the Arab nation is currently facing a common danger to its present and future, because the conflict in the Gulf and Palestine accurately expresses the depth of the conflict and the pan-Arab stand toward this conflict.

Meets Ramadan

JN2409170390 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1445 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] and the delegation accompanying him today.

Mr. Ramadan said the time of Arab capitulation and inaction has gone forever, and that there will be no retreat from the policy of revolutionary confrontation, which has begun to grow in every Arab country.

Ramadan stressed that the decision to restore Kuwait to Iraq is eternal and irrevocable, and that the sons of the Arab nation are united in their defense of this natural and legitimate right.

He said that the Arab nation can prove its strength and resolve, and that the traitor and agent Arab rulers are now in a great predicament as all Arab masses are now ready to fight the aggressors and topple the worn-out thrones that seek the protection of the Zionist entity and its allies, which receive factors of strength and expansion at the expense of the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

Mr. Samir Ghawshah stressed that President Saddam Husayn's wise leadership, pan-Arab positions, defense of Palestine, and challenge of the Zionists and their masters and agents have fueled the Arab citizen's spirit of struggle and readiness to fight on the entire Arab scene.

He said that the revolutionaries of the Palestinian intifadah are gaining further strength and firmness; they derive determination, steadfastness, and militancy from the brave leadership of President Saddam Husayn, which has alarmed the Americans, the Zionists, and the rulers of humiliation and capitulation, and around which all revolutionary Arab forces have rallied.

Ramadan Reiterates Call for Arab Dialogue

LD2309130590 Algiers APS in English 1127 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 September (APS)—The Iraqi deputy prime minister and commander of the Popular Army, Taha Yasin Ramadan, told APS that if the international community wanted to debate about the question of "the return of Kuwait to Iraq", it must discuss all the problems of the area, namely, the spoliation of Palestine, the occupation of Gowan [Golan], the Syrian presence in Lebanon and the Iraqi Kuwaiti dispute.

"The integration of Kuwait to Iraq is an Arab problem which necessitates an Arab solution. Thus, we call for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the holy places of Islam", he underlined. The Iraqi official said it is the duty of Arabs to demand that the Palestinian question be examined with the same attention and eagerness granted to the annexation of Kuwait".

Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated the Iraqi initiative and the readiness of his country to dialogue "strictly in an Arab frame without defining the bases of this solution", as, he said, "any Arab citizen can have a point of view on the question".

The Iraqi deputy premier affirmed that the intention of the USA is clear as it aims at weakening the military and economic potentialities of Iraq. If we go back to the recent past, he said, we shall notice that everything started by a media campaign orchestrated against Iraq before August 2, then by a ban on the supply to Iraq of medical equipments and finally by a blockade putting an end to all agreements concluded with the USA.

The decisions undertaken by the UN Security Council, Taha Yasin said, are only decisions of the USA and the Soviet Union has approved every decision taken by the USA, otherwise how can one explain the fact that resolutions on Palestine have never been implemented.

"Iraq will not renounce to its historical right to unite its territory", Taha Yasin Ramadam said. Moreover, the Iraqi official said that a possible military confrontation with the Western forces can not be geographically limited. "We shall strike the enemy's positions everywhere. We are convinced that the objective of the occupation forces is not to bring back the amir of Kuwait to power but to harm the Arab forces", he said.

The USA wants to transfer the Arab oil to USA and wants to its policy of prices, exploitation and exports of oil, he added. [sentence as received] Iraq, he said, will continue opposing this new form of colonialism and it is still facing up the blockade imposed on it.

Ramadan Cited on Gulf Crisis, U.S.

JN2209173490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, received today Antonio Anoki [name as received], head of the Sports and Peace Committee and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Japanese Parliament, and the delegation accompanying him.

The RCC member said that the United States seeks to impose its hegemony on the world and to control the keys of scientific and economic progress. He indicated that the peace-loving countries that are seeking progress and legitimate cooperation should oppose the declared U.S. policy to achieve domination through the use of fleets and armies.

Ramadan added that whoever stands on the side of the United States will regret his decision to do so, because he would be siding with falsehood against right and with domination against liberation and independence.

Ramadan said that Iraq wants genuine and comprehensive peace based on the principles contained in the initiative launched by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 12 August.

Anoki described President Saddam Husayn's initiative as the ideal and practical formula for resolving all problems of the region. He added that this initiative is the master key for achieving peace and pushing away the scepter of war in the region. He also expressed admiration for the high morale of the Iraqis, for the normal activities in all sectors, and also for the contempt in which the Iraqis hold all forms of blockade and foreign military presence.

Ramadan Receives Tunisian Islamic Leader

JN2409174990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today Rachid Ghanouchi, leader of the Tunisian Islamic Renaissance Movement.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the unity of the Arab position among all its factions, trends, parties, and organizations and in all Arab countries against the occupation by the U.S. invaders and their allies of the

Arab territories and the Arabs' and Muslims' sanctities is a new phenomenon in the history of the Arab nation. This phenomenon demonstrates that the nation now possesses its own free will and is ready to fight the aggressors, who want to impose hegemony over its sovereignty and wealth.

He referred to the fear on the part of the rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Egypt and their masters of the growing unity among Arab revolutionary factions and their readiness to fight the U.S. occupiers and their allies and clear the Arab sacred lands of their filth.

Rachid Ghanouchi stressed that kicking out the U.S. invaders and their allies and saving the holy Ka'bah and the tomb of the noble prophet from the filth of the enemies of Arabism and Islam is the duty of every Arab and Muslim, because those who defend their rights will always triumph over all forces of injustice and aggression, regardless of their size.

Saddam Receives Islamic World Union Leader

JN2209160590 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1515 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Prince Muhammad Bin-Shams-al-Din al-Fasi. [chairman of the Islamic World Union]

The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Vietnamese Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2409174790 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Mr. Tran Dinh Hoan, Vietnam's minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare, and his delegation left Baghdad today following a one-week visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Vietnamese minister said that, during the visit, he delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Do Muoi, chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, concerning relations between Iraq and Vietnam and the developments in the Arabian Gulf. He referred to the need to settle the Arabian Gulf crisis through diplomatic means without foreign intervention and within the context of the Arab family.

Assembly Speaker Receives French Society Head

JN2509070790 Baghdad INA in English
1550 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 24, INA—Speaker of the National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met Secretary General of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society Gille Munier.

Mr. Salih reviewed during the meeting developments of the events in the Middle East region after the deployment of the foreign troops on the sacred Islamic lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the imperialist-Zionist policies aimed at undermining Arab nation's security and dignity.

Mr. Salih affirmed that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn utterly rejected the use of force as solution to the pending problems in the region, referring that President Saddam Husayn's Aug 12 initiative constitutes a practical foundation for realising the international peace and security in the region and averting the cloud of war.

Mr. Munier expressed appreciation and admiration over the courageous national attitudes of the Iraqi people in its just and legitimate defence against all forms of foreign intervention.

Mr. Munier lauded the generous care paid to Iraq's guests as being messengers of peace contributing to preventing the war and its deterimental consequences. (endall) 241550 ka/jabir/ms 25/0830z sep r0112509.424 BT #0424 NNNN

Ibrahim Chairs Agricultural Production Meeting

JN2209190090 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1655 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that certain victory is our lot and permanent fate, God willing, thanks to the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and to the resolve of the sons of the proud Iraqi people.

Ibrahim added: We in Iraq will thwart the economic blockade imposed on us by the forces of oppression and aggression, the Americans and their allies. Similarly, we will defend the noble values of humanity in the mother of all victorious battles, each in his position and according to his own specialty.

This came in a statement made by 'Izzat Ibrahim when he chaired an expanded meeting of senior party cadres and officials in charge of the agricultural sector to draw up and discuss ways to implement an agricultural campaign for the next agricultural season. The meeting was attended by some comrade members of the Regional Command; ministers, under secretaries, and governors; the secretaries of party branches; the directors of the agricultural branches in Iraq; and the heads of professional unions.

The deputy secretary of the Regional Command said that the United States and its allies do not want to understand or be aware of the new Iraq represented by a fateful and total cohesion between the people and its leadership in the efforts to safeguard their independence, pride, and dignity.

'Izzat Ibrahim said that the new responsibility for Iraq at present is to defend the noble principles and human values that turned it into a sanctuary for all strugglers and mujahidin throughout the globe, not only in the Arab homeland. He added that this is a source of unprecedented pride and peerless glory. It is a unique and bright picture in the history of Iraq, Arabs, and Muslims.

Ibrahim added that the bright glory that surrounds Iraq and its mujahid people comfortably right now is the outcome and fruit of all the sacrifices that our people have made over long years of struggle and steadfastness.

'Izzat Ibrahim reaffirmed the importance of the pioneering role of the party and its mass organizations in utilizing and exploiting all available capabilities and resources to increase agricultural production through the exploitation of every inch of Iraqi arable lands, extending from Zakho to the farthest point on the sea coast through reliance on domestic capabilities.

The deputy secretary of the Regional Command stressed the need to use the agricultural cycle system in accordance with the agricultural regional map. He reaffirmed the need to go by this map in the best possible manner during the next agricultural season and also to obtain the optimal production of major agricultural products so as to defeat the colonial blockade imposed on Iraq.

During the meeting, the conferees held an extensive discussion of ways to coordinate and cooperate among various state bodies at all levels to achieve the desired objectives so as to secure high returns, serve the sons of our great people, and provide them with all necessary requirements to render this national and historic campaign a success.

Through the ideas they aired and the proposals they made, the conferees pledged to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn that they would proceed behind his unique and courageous leadership, guided by his sound instructions, to defend the dear homeland by sparing no effort to break the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq and turn the malice of the aggressors against them so that they are humiliated and subjugated by the will of the great Iraqi people.

Governor Views Agricultural Yield, Cultivation

JN2309104490 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 6

[By Faruq Hamdi in Basra]

[Text] Al-Basrah Governor 'Abdallah Talab 'Ajzan has affirmed that preparations are underway in the governorate to cultivate and plant all agricultural land, and that the next agricultural season will witness an increase in fruit, vegetable, and cereal yields.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent he said that the cultivated areas in 1975 were 4,800 dunums. In 1980 these increased to 16,445 dunums. During the 1989-1990 agricultural season, they rose to more than 45,046 dunums.

The contracted agricultural areas amounted to over 95,543 dunums, whereas the number of farms in the al-Basrah district totaled 4,200. The quantity of tomatoes marketed for this district exceeded 350,000 tonnes.

He indicated that steps are continuing to increase the planting of palm seedlings and the cultivation of land between Abu al-Khasib, Abu-Laflus, and Ra's al-Bi'ah. The areas planted with palms now amount to 64,053 dunums and 10,703 dunums within fruit orchards.

The governor of al-Basrah pointed out that the city of cities is distinguished for its greenhouse production of tomatoes in the regions of Safwan and Zubayr. Its production is sufficient for all Iraqi governorates. The planted areas during the winter season amounted to over 24,753 dunums. Alongside the tomato yield, garlic, onions, cucumbers, or pumpkins are also planted.

He pointed out that the drip irrigation experiment had effectively increased the production of one dunum by regulating the amount of water, thereby increasing the area of cultivated land and leading to ideal exploitation of subterranean water. The average production of one dunum amounted to 10 tonnes.

He added that most agricultural land in the governorate is concentrated around the Shatt al-'Arab, al-Qurnah, and Zubayr. So far, 39.6 more dunums have been exploited to plant fruits and vegetables.

He affirmed that the governorate is distinguished for its wide marshy areas which are used for planting rice. The areas planted with rice have amounted to over 10,000 dunums. Al-Faw Company will start implementing irrigation projects by cultivating and planting 15,000 dunums with strategic crops of wheat and barley in the al- Shuwayyib region.

The same company has completed in record time its plan to channel and clean the rivers within the area of the Shatt al-'Arab, al- Qurnah, and Madinah over a distance of 615 kilometers, erecting flood walls to protect agricultural land over a distance of 1,148 kilometers.

Factory Reports on Fodder, Dairy Production

JN2309194290 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 6

[By Rawiyah Hashim]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the General Establishment of Dairy Products recently succeeded in producing concentrated fodder from stalks of palm trees and reeds, and that the first of this fodder was produced in mid-July.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Ghassan Ibrahim, director general of the establishment,

said that laboratory experiments to produce this kind of fodder began in mid-1989, and that the establishment is now doing its utmost to produce the fodder on a larger scale as part of the augmented cultivation drive to secure fodder for milk-producing animals and for cows. He added that the product has saved us in excess of tens of millions in foreign exchange.

On the establishment's daily production, he said: Dairy production increased at this stage to meet market demand and the needs of the citizenry. Daily dairy production amounted to 200 tonnes of pasteurized milk, 20 tonnes of cream, 16 tonnes of soft cheese, and 20 tonnes of processed cheese in packages of various forms and sizes. He said that the establishment fulfilled its plan 100 percent during the past 13 days of September. The establishment's production last August amounted to 8,630 tonnes, a 26 percent increase over production for the same month in 1989, which was 6,840 tonnes.

Asked about the current scarcity of dairy products in the market, he said: There is no scarcity of dairy products although there is scarcity in some areas. This is due to several reasons: First, dairy products represent basic alternatives to other protein products such as meat and eggs. Second, Iraq lacks alternatives to dairy products. This has made the citizen concentrate on these products for his food. To this may be added the phenomenon of hoarding practiced by citizens because of the long life of the establishment's products, which means they can be stored.

Qays Hanna Dawud, head of the planning department, told us that the factory is the biggest of the three in Iraq; the other two are in the Governorates of Nineveh and al-Qadisiyah. He said that this factory produces tens of tonnes of pasteurized milk, cream, and cheese, which are marketed through agents and central markets to the citizenry at fixed and reasonable prices.

Agriculture Minister Encourages Fishing in South

JN2109202090 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation, has said that our struggling country has all the resources to overcome the economic siege imposed on us by the imperialist and Zionist circles. The minister said Iraq's agriculturally fertile land and waters rich in fish resources are capable of providing its own food and obtaining all the elements of national food security.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper AL-'IRAQ, the minister added that translating struggling leader President Saddam Husayn's valuable directives on agricultural activity into action can put Iraq into a leading position among world states in the field of cereal production and strategic harvests.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud added that our struggling country under its historic leadership, which has proven to the whole world its power and ability to thwart aggression and confront all forms of imperialist, Zionist, and backward conspiracy, is today capable through the hands of its sons and the directives of its struggling leader Saddam Husayn, of defeating the economic siege by increasing agricultural production in both its animal and plant branches. The next agricultural season will prove that Iraq's resources are ample and blessed.

Regarding fish resources, the minister said the ministry had taken effective measures to increase and make this resource available on account of its great nutritional value. The minister explained that some of these measures allow fishermen to fish in al-Ahwar regions in southern Iraq. The ministry will coordinate with the concerned sides to define the regions where fishing will be allowed.

The minister called on fishermen to exploit this opportunity and use their abilities and potentials to contribute toward providing this nutritional substance to the citizens on a national level and toward thwarting the aggressive imperialist and Zionist siege imposed on our struggling country.

Agriculture Ministry Urges Self-Sufficiency

JN2109160690 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 19 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has urged the general public to try to achieve self-sufficiency to beat the economic blockade imposed against great Iraq by American imperialism and Zionism and their treasonous and agent allies.

The Ministry urged citizens to raise poultry in their homes and to make us of their gardens to grow vegetables for the coming winter season, so as to meet part of their requirements.

The General Authority for Agricultural Services is making available seedlings of certain winter vegetables at cost price for sale as of the middle of the month.

Citizens were advised to get seedlings from the al-Za'faraniyah farm and to seek instructions on planting and care procedures.

Northern Governorates Report Volunteers

JN2209150190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The Iraqis have continued to pour into the headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the headquarters of mass organizations, announcing that they are volunteering to defend great Iraq against the forces of oppression, evil, and aggression to thwart the ferocious conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation, and avowing their readiness to teach the enemies hard lessons. The number of volunteers from the governorates of the northern area totaled 2,263,055 as of 15 September.

Minister Leaves for Havana Nonaligned Conference

JN2209160090 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 22, INA—Mr. 'Abdullah Fadil, minister of endowments and religious affairs, this morning headed for Havana to attend meetings of the third conference of the Nonaligned Movement information ministers scheduled on Monday.

The conferees will discuss a set of topics on specifying strategy of the future development for cooperation in activities with relation to the information and communications .

The conferees will also exchange view points of common concern and discuss report prepared by head of the modern techniques in the field of information in the non-aligned countries.

Minister Describes Education Plans for Kuwait

JN2209080690 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 1

[By Maryam al-Sati]

[Text] Education Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Izz-al-Din has announced that the decisions on free and compulsory education will cover the Kuwait governorate. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH yesterday, the minister said that the implementation of the decisions on free and compulsory education in Kuwait will give the brother Arab residents and foreign nationals a great opportunity to educate their children because in the past, free schools admitted only the sons of the Kuwait area.

The minister noted that the previous regulations did not apply to sons of residents who lived in Kuwait for 30 years, thus creating economic difficulties for them because of the high cost of education at private schools. Moreover, these rules helped spread illiteracy among the children of the poor strata of society, which constitute a big sector in Kuwait.

The minister noted that specialized bodies in the ministry have completed preparations for the new scholastic year and provided textbooks for all schools in all the governorates, including Kuwait. The ministry is working with all speed to provide adequate staffing in areas where there is a shortage of teachers.

Papers Denounce Ban on Asiad Participation

JN2209124390 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 22, INA—Iraqi newspapers today denounced the illegal and unjust decision by the Asian Olympic Council to ban Iraq from taking part in the Asian games opening in Beijing tomorrow.

The Iraqi papers said the unjust decision came in response to cheap attempts by some weak-spirit elements in the Arab Gulf to expel Iraq from taking part in the Asian games.

The papers commentary said that with this banning, sport in Asia would be the only loser since Iraq was the founding member of the Asian Olympic Council and has a distinguished position and weight in the Asian sport map.

The Iraqi papers said that the decision of banning Iraq was far from the genuine and noble sport ethics and principles and that the Asian games were deprived from the most prominent characteristics of its success.

The papers added that the Asian Olympic Council had recalled the tragedy of Korea, which was subjected to the American influence and expelled from the Asian beings [as received] in the 50's. The papers further said that the American octopus instructed its agents to act to that end because Iraq's participation would be a victory to its principles and the accomplishments of its athletes.

AL-IRAQ Calls French Stance Racist

JN2209081990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has described French President Mitterrand's position on the situation in the Arabian Gulf as behavior similar to that of the old French colonialists against the Arabs and as a relinquishment of the independence of his country in the interest of the American decision. In an analysis in today's issue, the newspaper affirms that Mitterrand behaved in an undemocratic way with the French people and portrayed his political decisions and acts as though they were the decisions and acts of all the French people.

AL-'IRAQ adds that the colonialist policy of a French socialist leader expresses itself in other situations. And this is manifested by the armed presence and interference in the old French colonies. The paper adds that France's stance against Iraq and Iraqis on French territory shows a great deal of racism. We can say that its official stance on the situation in the Gulf is not linked to the return of Kuwait to the motherland or the so-called defense of Saudi Aarabia vis-a-vis an alleged Iraqi danger, but to submission to U.S. policy. And the reason for this is that racism has turned into an official state policy contrary to the interests and convictions of the majority of the French people.

AL-'IRAQ affirms that France's interest lies in peace and in fair dealing with world countries and nations, including the Arab nation, in light of the facts whose foundations were laid down by President de Gaulle in his country's foreign policy and through which the French and the Arabs received many benefits.

AL-THAWRAH Says Unity With Kuwait 'Irrevocable'

JN2409112090 Baghdad INA in English
1015 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 24, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily said that the decision Iraq had made concerning the merger unity with Kuwait was an historic and irrevocable decision, and emphasized that it would never be rescinded, even if faced with the fiercest forces of evil and aggression.

In its editorial for today, the daily said that the hands of the clock could never rotate anti-clockwise, and those who see it the other way are only dreaming of realizing the impossible itself.

The daily added that he who believes that he could offend Iraq with impunity is under a grand illusion, for Iraq will not stand alone in the great battle of destiny, and all Arabs, Moslems and good citizens all over the world will be on its side.

It made it clear that by accusing the Arabs of terrorism, the forces of evil, led by the United States, are only expressing their fears and concerns now that they have realized that the Arab masses have made their decision to fight with an iron will and miraculous determination to defeat the aggressors and put an end to the foreign hegemony.

Concluding its article, the daily expressed confidence that the nation would achieve the outright victory over the imperialist invadors and inflict untold destruction and losses upon their forces.

Paper Warns Mubarak of Al-Sadat's Fate

JN2209084390 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0625 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Arab masses have revealed the facts of the false policy which agent Husni [Mubarak] followed while he was hidden behind pan-Arab slogans. In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the ruler of Egypt pursued a method through which he planned to drag the entire Arab nation into the Camp David trap, which the Egyptian regime fell into. The paper described Husni's hints that he wants to rid himself of the shackles of the agreement of humiliation and treason as a way of binding the entire nation with the shackles of this unjust pact. The paper adds that the double standard practiced by the ruler of Egypt was clearly exposed after the U.S. invasion of the Gulf region, when Husni exposed his American face that was hidden behind an Arab mask.

AL-JUMHURIYAH noted that Husni has always shown himself to be the representative of Zionist and U.S. policy in the Arab homeland and the faithful defender of the Zionist presence. The paper adds that those who were deceived by Husni's pan-Arab acts after he assumed power in Egypt were taken in by this game not because of their shortsightedness and unawareness of matters, but because of the long-breath policy followed by the ruler of Egypt, who inherited the glories of the al-Sadat course and tried to implement its concepts in accordance with a new method that is different from the old way of al-Sadat.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says the fate of al-Sadat will be waiting for Husni, the servant of the Americans and Zionists.

U.S. To Give Unconditional Loan Guarantee

TA2509184890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i confirmed that the Bush administration will soon announce its intention to grant Israel a loan guarantee of $400 million. The money is to be used for immigrant absorption. Moda'i told the Voice of Israel from Washington that the United States has not asked for any commitments from Israel as a condition for the loan.

Levi To Tell Baker Peace Process Must Wait

TA2609063990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Sep 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] New York—Israel will not move forward on the peace process until after the Persian Gulf crisis ends, Foreign Minister David Levi will tell U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during their meeting today at the UN, Israeli officials said privately.

With the protracted stalemate in the Persian Gulf possibly lasting for months, Levi's message to Baker is effectively that an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is on ice.

This message comes one week after Baker sent Levi a letter reportedly prodding him to be more forthcoming on the peace issue. It comes three days after the Bush administration dispatched UN Ambassador Thomas Pickering to inform Levi that the meeting with Baker is not a social visit and that he was expected to come up with "new ideas" to keep the peace process alive, informed U.S. sources say.

"Our view, which will be conveyed tomorrow, is that we want to see the Persian Gulf resolved, and then we can move forward," an Israeli official said last night. The official indicated that the region is rapidly changing and that Israel wants to know how the region will look before it moves forward.

When asked if Israel is in effect creating a linkage of its own between the Gulf crisis and the peace process, the official said that Israel is not tying progress on peace to a specific outcome of the crisis, such as the removal of Saddam Husayn, and pointed out that Israel has resolutely rejected any linkage between the Persian Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Another controversial issue to be raised by Levi in his meeting with Baker is debt reduction. Officials insist that Levi will ask the U.S. to write off Israel's $4.5 billion military debt, assuming the administration succeeds in its plan to forgive Egypt's $7.1 billion debt. However, U.S. sources believe the issue of debt reduction for Israel is in deep trouble, partly because Egyptian debt forgiveness is not a sure thing.

Levi is expected to voice disappointment with the surprise U.S. decision to launch a two-stage arms sale to Saudi Arabia, with the first part equaling $10 billion. Israel quietly acquiesced to an initial sale of $2.2 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia over a month ago, but was taken aback when the Pentagon—without consulting Israel—subsequently announced a second $10 billion deal, which may be followed by yet a third deal of equal value.

IDF Intelligence Chief on Post-Crisis War

TA2609104590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Sep 90 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israel Defense Forces Intelligence Branch, believes that at the end of the Persian Gulf crisis, it is possible that Saudi Arabia and Syria—both of which currently play a role alongside the United States—will clash with Israel to try to liberate Jerusalem. He maintains that by then the Syrians could be stronger and better prepared for war, and that U.S. weapons will remain on Saudi soil and will be directed against us. In this context the intelligence Branch chief mentioned the advanced U.S. weapons that fell into Iraqi hands during the occupation of Kuwait. The Saudi Army is small, he said, and incapable of using such large quantities of sophisticated weapons. Gen. Shahaq was addressing a forum of lawyers and judges at a convention of the Bar Association in Jerusalem.

The Intelligence Branch chief pointed out that like Egypt, Syria receives a hefty chunk of the budget set aside by the United States for the countries participating in the naval blockade of Iraq; Syria also enjoys additional income thanks to the increase in oil prices. This being the case, said the Intelligence Branch chief, Syria's economy might recover, at which time President al-Asad might be able to carry out military projects he has put off due to economic difficulties.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, the Intelligence Branch chief expressed his opinion that time has not diminished the danger of a conflagration. As for Iraq's threats against Israel, he said that the Israeli Air Force is capable of preventing almost completely an Iraqi Air Force attack on Israeli targets.

Israeli security sources said yesterday that the weapons the United States is to give Saudi Arabia will be dangerous to Israel. Perhaps not in the immediate future, but in the long term there is no question that the U.S. weapons, identical to the weapons Israel receives, will be handed over to elements in other Arab countries, which will study them.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens recently said that the Arab countries are currently being equipped with the same weapons Israel receives, which is why, insofar as new weapons are concerned, Israel should rely on its own military industries.

Commentator Sees Gulf War Inevitable

TA2509130290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 90 p 31

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "An Inevitable War"]

[Text] Although I cannot peek into President Bush's mind, I am certain he has not yet decided whether to launch a military offensive against Iraq. There must be moments when he is very determined to teach Saddam Husayn a lesson, and others when his mind balks at an imagined scene of an airlift bringing countless coffins from the Gulf to Andrews Air Force Base. The thought surely chills his heart.

On one hand, he has managed to round up impressive international and national support for the military option. On the other, newly appearing voices are liable to discourage him. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman declared some time ago that the war will result in 20,000 American dead and will cost $1 billion per day. Therefore, opined the senator, the President has no authority to act without receiving advance approval from Congress. It is true that such talk does not make Bush's decisionmaking easier, but in my opinion, a war is unavoidable.

If Saddam's regime does not fall from within under the pressure of the embargo, or if Saddam himself does not panic and voluntarily withdraw from Kuwait (neither of which seem feasible at the moment), Bush will eventually be forced to use his army. This may happen even sooner than people think, perhaps even before the congressional elections—and not because the United States craves fighting, but because it will have no other alternative.

There are several reasons for this assessment. The first is the network of commitments and expectations Bush has prepared and from which he will be unable to withdraw (if the embargo and political efforts fail) without destroying himself and burying U.S. credibility seven feet under ground. He has compared Saddam to Hitler—an unusual step for U.S. Presidents. He made a public commitment to eradicate everything Saddam's regime and system stand for. Recently, he reiterated the goal in an address to Congress: "Iraq will not be allowed to annex Kuwait. This is not a warning; this is how things are going to be." It will be hard to take back words like these.

He is committed to the world economy, which is facing disastrous oil prices. He has made it clear that the new global order cannot permit the existence of a superpower equipped with chemical and nuclear weapons that threatens the world's well-being. How will he, personally, and the United States be able to look the world in the eye if everything he has said, everything he has prepared, all the targets he has marked are proven to be an April Fool's joke? It simply defies common sense.

Second, he has amassed a vast military presence in the Gulf. Had a similar setup been prepared as quickly during World War II, the war would have ended differently. He has amassed some 200,000 soldiers, an enormous naval force, over 800 of the world's most sophisticated aircraft, and a technology of destruction science fiction has not even dreamed of. Such power, after a period of training in desert conditions, allows the President a military option even at this moment. Air Force Commander Dugan's remarks were not idle talk, since the military machine, too, is apparently pressing.

It will not be another Vietnam, as pessimists predict. Military experts estimate that the assessments predicting huge American losses are wrong. The main reason for this is that in this kind of war, the U.S. Army will not have to break through fortifications, where most casualties are incurred. With their enormous firepower and the total destructive capability amassed there, there is no reason to believe the war will be anything but quick and decisive, or that it will not achieve the goals that Bush has outlined as a sign of full victory. It is hard to imagine that all that might was amassed there only to be sent back home without doing a thing, with its tail between its legs.

A compromise allowing Saddam Husayn to retain a part of Kuwait would amount to a U.S. surrender. Sending the troops back home while Saddam remains firmly in his seat holding on to Kuwait, or most of it, would be a painful defeat for the United States. It would be a blow to regional leaders who had relied on him. The Saudi regime ("depraved," in Saddam's words) would collapse, bringing the feudal orders and emirates down with it. Mubarak himself would be liable to fall, and Jordan would be Iraq's next province. A great sense of victory would permeate the Arab countries, and radical Islamic forces would change the region's map. The United States' status as a superpower would be two grades lower, and Bush would become a bitter joke.

Even if this entire force was amassed in the Gulf in a bid to scare Saddam and force him, without firing a single shot, to capitulate, it is hard to believe that—if the show of muscle and the embargo fail—the United States will say: "Well, so we didn't make it," leaving a victorious Saddam and assuming, together with the Free World, the role of loser. This is hard to believe.

I am positive that a war is inevitable. If Saddam does not capitulate, the United States will finish him off. The writing is on the wall.

Arens on UN Embargo, Al-Burayj Measures

TA2609062990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Qital] First of all, let us discuss this latest piece of news regarding the air embargo on Iraq. What does it signify from our point of view? What is your reaction to this UN Security Council resolution?

[Arens] This is additional proof that the coalition President Bush has managed to set up against Saddam Husayn has survived and has even grown stronger and expanded. If initially there were lots of doubts regarding this coalition's life span and the effectiveness of the embargo that it imposed on Saddam Husayn, then today I believe there is growing conviction that the coalition will survive and that the embargo could be effective.

[Qital] From our standpoint, how should we regard Saddam's latest threats; namely, his remarks about a unilateral operation, no longer only under the disguise of a retaliatory measure or under any other disguise?

[Arens] I think these threats are clear indications that the man is in trouble and understands that he is in dire straits, and his situation is becoming worse. No act of desperation should be dismissed, and we are prepared for that as well, but I think that his situation is deteriorating.

[Qital] From our angle, insofar as the civilians on the home front are concerned, has anything changed following Saddam's latest threats?

[Arens] No. We are prepared and ready for any act of desperation that might come, but I think the likelihood for that is not high.

[Qital] Let us now discuss the issue that I believe must have worried you over the past few days since the murder of the reserve soldier Pomerantz in Gaza on the Jewish New Year; namely, everything that is currently happening in Gaza. First of all, how do you manage to waltz between the legal—some would say humanitarian—demands and the security requirements?

[Arens] We must do whatever is called for by the situation and the terrible murder of the late Amnon Pomerantz, and naturally, we must act within the confines of the law. We decided on the measures that should be taken in al-Burayj, and I must say that I never doubted that what we did was lawful and that consequently the law would back us up, or that the High Court of Justice would stand by us. I was very happy to hear yesterday that the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal submitted to it.

[Qital] Did you have any doubts at all, even on the evening between Sunday and Monday, when the High Court of Justice decided to halt the demolitions?

[Arens] Look, the future is unpredictable and no one can tell what will happen, but as I told you, we in the defense establishment were convinced that what we were doing was not only necessary but also legal. I am very pleased that the High Court of Justice ruled that this indeed is the case.

[Qital] And regarding Gaza as a whole, I am pretty sure I know how you will respond to my question on the differences of opinion between the prime minister and the opposition leader at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee regarding Gaza's value—whether it is a pain in the neck or a place we should be in—but even though I am sure I know what your answer will be, still let me ask you whether as defense minister in charge of this hornets' nest, it would not have been easier for you without Gaza?

[Arens] First of all, it seems to me that now, so soon after that horrible murder, is not exactly the best time to conduct a political debate or discussion on the Gaza District's importance for Israel's security, etc. I do not believe anyone would suggest that we simply get up and leave it. Mr. Peres may have suggested exactly that, I did not hear him; but if he did, I think very few people in Israel would support it.

[Qital] What is happening in the Gaza Strip today? I understand that a UN official wants to meet with you to find a settlement that would offer alternative housing to those people whose homes have been demolished, as well as some other humanitarian issues. How do you contend with these problems?

[Arens] First of all, I was going to meet with Mr. Giacomelli of the United Nations in any case. His visit to Israel was planned long ago, and he had then already expressed the desire to meet me. I will be happy to meet him. Still, the steps we have taken there to expand the main road in the al-Burayj camp are based on our decision; we heard no appeals from any other body for compensation or alternative housing solutions for those whom we had to evict. This requires no intervention by any other element. I heard today on the radio that several bodies are organizing to help them and the like. Well, that will be done anyhow by the security forces and would have been done with or without this external intervention.

[Qital] Mr. Arens, to conclude: I understand that you are expected to respond this afternoon to the motions to the Knesset agenda on the murder in Gaza. Is that correct?

[Arens] Yes, it is.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr. Arens and good morning.

[Arens] Shalom.

More on Al-Burayj

TA2609075790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Friedman] Has the demolition of houses in the al-Burayj camp in the Gaza Strip already been completed?

[Arens] If not, then the operation will be over in an hour or two.

[Friedman] Is al-Burayj a singular, exceptional case, or is this the beginning of a new and harsher security policy to combat the intifadah?

[Arens] No, this signifies no change. We are simply taking the measures indicated by the lessons we learned from the horrifying murder of the late Amnon Pomerantz. What we are doing will increase security in the area. We will compensate the residents who will be evicted from the houses and shops, and I was pleased to hear that the High Court of Justice turned down the appeal against these moves, thereby in effect affirming the legality of what was done.

[Mardor] You say, Mr. Arens, that these moves will increase security. Will they not stir up greater ferment once the curfew on al-Burayj is lifted?

[Arens] Our primary concern is first of all to increase security, and the conclusion we reached after an examination of the situation was that the circumstances called for these steps. I think that a byproduct of these steps will be increased security and that in the final analysis the inhabitants of the camp will benefit as well.

[Friedman] It was reported yesterday after the High Court of Justice's ruling was published that from now on there will no longer be collective punishments, and that only operational needs will be considered—or so, at least, I heard in the television report. So first let me ask you if this is true; and if so, will the different nomenclature make any difference in terms of the methods used or their desired effect?

[Arens] We do not deal in collective punishment. Immediately after the killing we announced that our operations would be specifically targeted at individual people or sites. As everyone no doubt noticed, we have not taken any measures in any other place in the Gaza District. Furthermore, even in al-Burayj itself we have taken action against those individuals whom we managed to identify as participants in that awful murder.

[Mardor] Do you believe the local inhabitants will accept this interpretation of yours or your terminology?

[Arens] I cannot tell you anything about the locals. Clearly there are many of them who can hardly be considered human beings in light of the act they perpetrated, and as far as they are concerned, I must say I am not too interested what their interpretation might be.

[Friedman] Incidentally, how many people, to the best of your knowledge, took active part in the killing of Amnon Pomerantz?

[Arens] Undoubtedly the act involved dozens of individuals. They are people who committed an act that no civilized person is capable of doing—not to mention that no cultured person would ever have actually done that. I think that this exposed the ugly and inhuman face of the so-called intifadah. There is no question that quite a few residents of the camp participated in this crime.

[Friedman] Speaking of comments, earlier this week, after the murder in al-Burayj, you were accused—by fellow party member 'Uzi Landau of the Likud, by Gush Emunim, and by others—of perpetuating the Yitzhaq Rabin policy in the Defense Ministry. What can you say about that?

[Arens] There must obviously be people who enjoy talking on the radio or accusing others. What can I say? I do what I think should be done to guarantee state security and the well-being of its inhabitants. If the policy I have conducted ever since I entered office—and some will argue that some results can already be felt...

[Friedman, interrupting] One of them is Yosi Sarid, who called it the wise-hand policy. Do you prefer this label?

[Arens] I think, first of all, that results are the only criteria to judge by. If there are any results—and some would argue so and furthermore contend that the results are positive—then I believe this should be accompanied by no regrets.

[Friedman] Does the al-Burayj incident not alter the wide-spread assessment that the intifadah is on the decline?

[Arens] First of all, I never said this at any point, nor am I saying this now. Evidently there are still violent acts and they occur too frequently. We are not prepared to accept that. Nonetheless, we have heard the Arab populace in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District say that they are frustrated and are asking themselves where all this is leading and whether the intifadah is not waning. Again, I say we must not regret this. Even those people who talked on the radio and voiced all sorts of accusations should not regret it, I think.

[Friedman] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you very much, and have a good day.

[Arens] Thank you. Shalom.

Al-Burayj Curfew Remains in Force; General Strike

TA2609055790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpts] In the Gaza Strip, an Israeli soldier was lightly injured in the face by a flying rock, and in the town of Tulkarm in Samaria a nine-year-old Israeli boy was slightly hurt by glass when the car in which he was traveling was stoned; both were hospitalized. Arab sources say five Palestinians were injured yesterday in clashes with Israeli troops. Curfews were also imposed on al-Nusayrat and Jabalyah refugee camps.

Palestinians in the territories are holding a general strike today in support of Iraq. The leaders of the uprising say it is a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people against the American invasion.

Meanwhile, in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of al-Burayj security forces yesterday destroyed 26 stores and seven homes in order to allow safer movement following the murder of the Israeli soldier last Thursday. Four more buildings were sealed. Security forces say some 30 Arab suspects are now under arrest as the search for others continues. The curfew on al-Burayj remains in force. The Gaza Strip killing will be discussed at a special session of the Knesset today. The demolitions began immediately after the High Court removed a temporary restraining order against destroying shops and homes in the area of the killing of reserve Sergeant Amnon Pomerantz. [passage omitted]

Later, Justice Minister Dan Meridor called the High Court case exceptional and stressed that there is no change in the legal procedure needed to demolish homes in the territories. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Sees Change in Soviet Mideast Policy

TA2609095190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Sep 90 p A2

[Report by ITIM and Ran Dagoni in New York]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for the first time yesterday linked the renewal of Soviet-Israeli relations with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Shevardnadze, answering a question at an impromptu news conference after his address to the UN General Assembly, said that the Gulf crisis must first be resolved and only after that can the issue of relations between Moscow and Jerusalem be discussed.

In contrast to the declared Soviet position, Shevardnadze did not reiterate the Soviet demand to convene an international conference as a condition for resuming ties with Israel.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu believes that the Soviet foreign minister's remarks express a change in Soviet Middle East policy. Netanyahu made his remarks last night at a meeting with Likud members at Bet Jabotinsky in Ramat Gan.

Referring to Israeli-Soviet relations, Netanyahu said that it is only a question of time before they are formally reinstituted. Relations between the two countries are growing deeper in economic, cultural, and tourism matters, and there is no doubt that this picture will be completed on the diplomatic level. Netanyahu believes there is a chance of direct flights from the USSR, although the departure of immigrants is not being held up there.

Referring to the Jaffee Institute for Strategic Studies' report on terror, he said that there has been a drop in terror because its sources have been hit, but that there has not been a significant change in the Arab world, which will return to terrorism when it finds that it pays. Netanyahu, therefore, believes that a real drop in terrorist activity against Israel and other targets will only take place if it is made clear that countries supporting terrorism will be punished.

Referring to events in the Gulf, the deputy foreign minister stressed that Israel does not take the Iraqi threats lightly, and that Saddam Husayn did not expect such a world reaction to the invasion. He said that Israel is facing a dangerous period and that some of the threats derive from the current U.S. ties with Syria, Egypt, and other countries that have linked up against Iraq.

CSFR Possible Transit Point for Soviet Jews

TA2509180290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] A joint team of specialists from Czechoslovakia and Israel will examine the proposal that Czechoslovakia serve as a transit point for Jews leaving the Soviet Union. This was agreed upon today in Prague between President Vaclav Havel and the Jewish Agency's Simha Dinitz. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the Jewish Agency has been officially permitted to open an office in Prague.

Histadrut Threatens Action Against Economic Plan

TA2509124890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] The Histadrut is threatening sanctions immediately after the holiday period in order to fight the Treasury's economic program. The chairman of the Trade Union Department, Hayim Haberfeld, told newsmen the Histadrut, the trade unions, and the works committees will close down the State of Israel on land, sea, and air, and nobody will work. The Histadrut is said to regard the plan as a fraud and intends to fight it tooth and nail.

Army Instructed To Blockade 'Awn-held Areas

NC2609055390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Ministerial sources have stated that the Army command will be instructed to start blockading the areas under General 'Awn's control as of today and until further notice. It is noted that a blockade involving the supply of fuel and foodstuffs began last night. The blockade will soon involve everyone. Citizens will not be allowed to enter the areas under General 'Awn's control, but will be allowed to leave.

The sources said the crossing points manned by the Lebanese Forces that lead to the areas under General 'Awn's control have been ready for two days now to be handed over to the Lebanese Army commanded by General Emile Lahhud. The operation is to be supervised by Brigadier General Elie Hayik.

'No Objection' to Handover

NC2609074090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has indicated that contacts are under way to hand over crossing points to Lebanese Army units under the command of General Emile Lahhund. The source said: We have absolutely no objection to doing so and this step could be carried out in the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, ministerial sources have stated that the Lebanese Forces have handed over to the Lebanese Army various types of weapons they possessed during the war General 'Awn waged against them. The weapons were part of a list presented by the army command to the Lebanese Forces command.

'Awn Units Attack Lebanese Forces Positions

NC2609062190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] General 'Awn's units fired artillery, automatic weapons, and rockets at residential areas and positions held by the Lebanese forces in Sinn al-Fil, al-Nab'ah, Galerie Khabbaz, and Galerie al-Ittihad last night. These units resumed intensive shelling this morning, firing at residential areas and positions held by the Lebanese Forces in Sinn al-Fil and al-Nab'ah.

After a brief lull, 'Awn's units resumed shelling the residential areas and the confrontation lines in the eastern area beginning at 0745, violating the fifth cease-fire agreement.

Cabinet Discusses Reforms, Al-Huss Trip to U.S.

NC2509142790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] The cabinet met today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended. The meeting ended at approximately 1330.

After the meeting Information and Justice Minister Attorney Edmund Rizq made a statement about the decisions the cabinet adopted regarding current issues. Among the topics discussed were the post-ratification stage of the constitutional amendments and the disbanding of militias within a period not to exceed six months [after the constitutional amendments were signed] in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. They also discussed other possibilities for a peaceful end to the mutiny in the eastern area. The cabinet stressed that it is necessary to resolve this issue as soon as possible to impose the state's authority.

The cabinet also discussed the situation in Sidon. It hoped that the existing differences and conflicts there will be solved wisely and rationally. It also discussed the political and economic dossier Prime Minister al-Huss will take to Washington and New York, where he will meet with U.S. President George Bush and deliver Lebanon's speech at the UN General Assembly session.

British Envoy Denies Contacts with Fadlallah

NC2509121290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, today received British Ambassador David Tatham. The two officials dicussed the situation in Lebanon.

After the meeting, the British ambassador said that the Gulf crisis will not affect the peace process in Lebanon but will affect its economic position. He added that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has negatively affected the Lebanese economy.

Replying to a question about Lebanon being included in the list of countries harmed by the Gulf crisis, he said: There are contacts between the Lebanese Embassy in London and the British Foreign Office. He stressed Britain's support for implementing resolution 425 and noted that his country held numerous contacts with the Israeli government on this issue.

The British ambassador denied published reports about the contacts between him and scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and others on the release of foreign hostages. He said reports on this issue are not true. He added that there are no negotiations and denied that there is any additional information.

Amal Denies Reports on Curfew in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2509120990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Guarded calm reigns along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines amid intermittent clashes involving machine guns and rockets. The clashes which broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah yesterday and early today left three people dead and five others wounded.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement information source in al-Zahrani area has denied private radio reports that the movement has imposed a curfew in certain villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah as of 2100 daily.

Al-Asad Returns From Iran With Accords

JN2509160590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon after a four-day official and friendly visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where he held fruitful talks with senior Iranian leaders, especially with Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the end of the visit and in the presence of President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the following agreements were signed:

1. A long-term agreement on trade and economic cooperation;

2. An agreement to establish a joint company for joint investment in the field of construction and contracts;

3. An agreement permitting construction companies in both countries to work in the respective other country and giving them the same privileges and facilities granted to the national companies;

4. An agreement on cooperation between the central planning organs in both countries and the exchange of expertise in this area;

5. A scientific and technical cooperation agreement;

6. An agreement on fighting crime and exchanging experience in police work.

At 1100 today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in President Hafiz al-Asad's place of residence in Tehran. Accompanying the Iranian president was First Vice President Hasan Habibi. The Iranian president and the vice president then accompanied the president to Mehrabad International Airport, where his excellency was accorded an official send-off. Present at the airport were other senior Iranian officials, the heads of the diplomatic missions in Tehran, the Syrian ambassador in Tehran and the embassy staff, and the Iranian ambassador to Syria. Both the Syrian and Iranian national anthems were played and the president inspected the honor guard before being seen off by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Gulf Crisis Solution Agreed to With Iran

JN2509065890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Historic Visit and the Most Important Event", the newspaper AL-BA'TH deals in its editorial today with leader al-Asad's visit to Iran. It points out that the good relations between Syria and Iran have been an important reserve for the Arab countries, which they resorted to whenever there was a need for cooperation, and which they utilized toward serving the causes of the Arabs and the Muslims.

AL-BA'TH continues: Leader al-Asad's visit to Iran these days represents one of the peaks of Arab-Iranian relations. A review of the major topics of discussion during the meetings of the two presidents, reveals the importance of these topics, foremost of which is the heated situation in the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli struggle, and foreign presence in the region.

What Syria and Iran agree on during these meetings and discussions will only be in the interest of the region, its stability, the victory of principles, adherence to values, and condemnation of the foreign presence and the aggressive act by Iraq against Kuwait which led to this presence and its gravity. Reading statements issued by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani makes it clear that there are no differences between Syria and Iran regarding rectifying the situation in the region. There is no difference over the fact that the foreign presence must be removed and that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is the cause of this foreign presence which has threatened the peace and security in the region and dragged foreign forces into it.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Proceeding from their great concern for eliminating all the dangers that threaten the region, Syria and Iran stand together and call in one voice and one effort for the removal of the causes that have brought foreigners to the territory of this region. What Syria and Iran say will be widely echoed and have effective weight which bodes well for the interests of the Arabs and Muslims and their just causes.

Regarding the same topic and under the headline "Extension Also Has Importance", the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The extension of President Hafiz al-Asad's current official and cordial visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran comes in response to an invitation by Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, and affirms the importance of issues under discussion between the Syrian Arab side and the Iranian side.

AL-THAWRAH continues: This importance can be summarized through the various subjects which the Syrian-Iranian summit dealt with, foremost of which was the Arab-Israeli conflict and the crisis in the Gulf, in addition to bilateral relations between Syria and Iran.

AL-THAWRAH notes: For these combined reasons the visit of the president and his accompanying delegation was extended to enable the Syrian Arab side and the Iranian side to continue discussion of issues of mutual interest on which they had earlier agreed, which, in addition to the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict, include the situation in the region and Lebanon, and to discuss all the issues in depth. Through this discussion, the two sides will bilaterally reach specific formulations which guarantee developing relations in the interest of the two peoples and expanding the horizons of joint benefit for both sides.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Proceeding from this, the extension of the visit gains great importance in view of the dangerous circumstances the region is going through and the effect this visit is expected to have on all these

issues, foremost of which are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the future of the situation in the region, especially the Gulf crisis, which was triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives With Fahd Message

JN2509153290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria. He was met at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the Saudi ambassador to Damascus.

In a statement to SANA, al-Faysal said the aim of his visit is to convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, and to hold talks on consultations and coordination between the leaders of the two countries.

Afghanistan

Blast Near Kabul TV Station; Tanks in Streets

BK2609095190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 26 (AFP)—Armoured carriers and tanks took up positions in front of vital government complexes in the Afghan capital as a blast near Kabul TV station rocked the diplomatic area, witnesses here said.

Armoured personnel carriers packed with soldiers in battle gear raced through the streets in downtown Kabul and troops carrying bazookas and machineguns fanned out in the city, standing guard at ministries, government offices and the buildings housing Kabul radio and TV.

The reason for the unusual activity was not immediately known but a Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was probably a military exercise for the defence of the city.

The spokesman added that Kabul Garrison Commander General Nabi Azimi would brief the press later in the day and that civilians were free to move.

The deployment came one night after the government extended the night curfew by one hour and triggered panic in the bazaars (markets). Civilians were seen hurrying home.

Special troops from Kabul garrison in jeeps raced around the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic enclave and troops with raised weapons were seen guarding roads in the district where several government offices are also located.

Some soldiers said all routes to the Home Ministry were cut and one warned a motorist not to go there.

"Big trouble" he said in halting English.

Diplomats when contacted said they too were monitoring the military movement which began between 9.30 A.M. and 10.30 A.M. (0500 and 0600 GMT), but added that they were in the dark regarding both the blast and the troop deployment.

Troops Deploy in Kabul, Block State Buildings

BK2609083990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept 26 (AFP)—Troops in full battle dress were deployed in the streets of central Kabul Wednesday [26 September], blocking roads to the interior ministry and cordonning off main government offices, witnesses said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said by telephone that the unusual troop movement "appeared to be an army exercise for the defence of the city (Kabul)." He added that Kabul garrison commander General Nabi Azimi would give fuller information later in the day and that there were no restrictions on civilian movement within the city.

Troops in battle dress and tanks were seen patrolling the main roads around the center of the city, the radio and television stations and the Foreign Ministry.

Residents, who could see some troops take up positions on the rooftops of houses, were bewildered by their sudden appearance between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. (0500 to 0600 GMT).

The unusual troop deployment took place one day after the government had brought forward the normal nightly curfew from 11:00 p.m. local time to 10:00 p.m.

India

Gujral Favors New UN Initiative in Gulf Crisis

BK2509163990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] India has called for a fresh initiative by the UN secretary general to find a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. Speaking to newsmen in London on his way to New York to attend the UN General Assembly, Mr. Gujral said the Gulf problem must be resolved through peaceful means and within the framework of the United Nations.

Referring to the hardships caused by the Gulf crisis, he expressed the hope that the international community will realize the gravity of the sufferings and help tide over the critical situation. He said unless international support, particularly monetary help from the World Bank and IMF is received to lessen the burden of the affected nations, the situation will become unbearable.

Mr. Gujral had discussions with the Italian prime minister, Mr. Andreotti, in Rome on the implications of the Gulf crisis on India. Mr. Andreotti has promised to take up the issue with the European Community.

The external affairs minister also had telephone talks with the West German chancellor.

Strikes, Violence Mark Antireservation Agitation

BK2609100290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in Delhi today in protest against the police action on anti-reservation agitators. Most of the shops and major business centers are closed. However, government offices, banks, and some other establishments are functioning. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in the city. The bundh call has been given by the Delhi unit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Anti-Mandal Commission Forum and other anti-reservationist groups. A team of AIR [All India Radio] correspondents who went round some areas of the capital report that a few buses and private vehicles are plying. According to a DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] spokesman, buses from south, southwest, and north depots have not been taken out as a precautionary measure. However, skeleton services are being maintained in other areas. According to the police,

no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the capital so far except sporadic incidents of deflating of vehicle tires and road blockades in some areas. DTC is not plying the inter-state bus services and incoming buses will not also operate. The commuters and office goers faced a lot of inconvenience in reaching their destinations.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] have been promulgated in some areas of three police districts. These are south, south-west, and New Delhi districts.

Meanwhile, another youth who was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences succumbed to bullet injuries late last night. Five others injured in the police firing have been admitted in various hospitals. The condition of two of them is reported to be serious. The condition of the youth, Rajiv Goswamy, who attempted self-immolation last Wednesday [19 September] is critical but stable. According to the doctors attending on him he is running a temperature. Some liquid diet was given to him this morning. The president of the Delhi unit of the BJP, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, has appealed to the people to maintain peace and calm during the bundh. The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. Arjun Singh, has expressed the hope that the bundh will remain peaceful as assured by its organizers.

More reports of violence have come in from the states. In Haryana, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Hissar today following large-scale violence by anti-reservationists. According to an agency report the army was called out in the town yesterday following violence after a youth committed suicide by consuming poison. The curfew imposed in Yamunanagar and Sirsa since yesterday is continuing. The army has been deployed in six districts in the state for maintaining law and order. The condition of the youth, Chattarpal, of Ballapgarh, who was admitted to Loknaik Jayprakash Narayan Hospital in the capital two days ago with 70 percent burn injuries is serious but stable.

In Punjab, indefinite curfew has been clamped in Ludhiana City this afternoon following some incidents of violence and arson by the Anti-Mandal Commission agitators. One agitator died when he fell down from a truck in which he was travelling and another youth was injured in a clash between anti and pro-Mandal Commission agitators. Elsewhere in Punjab, shops remained closed today in most parts of the state in response to the bundh call given by the Anti-Mandal Commission Joint Action Committee. The essential services are, however, functioning as normal and supply of milk, vegetables, and fodder from rural areas have not been affected. In Sangrur District, the agitators set ablaze the engine and about six bogies of the Kalka Mail [train] at Dhuri railway station this morning. Some government offices were also set ablaze by the agitators.

In Uttar Pradesh, two employees of the Post and Telegraph Department in Gaziabad received burn injuries when they were trapped inside a post office which was set afire. According to agency reports, the agitators set on fire a passenger train between Hapur and Babugarh railway stations.

In Rajasthan, a bundh is being observed in Jaipur in response to a call by anti-reservationists. In Jammu, normal life has been affected following a bundh call given by anti-reservation agitators in protest against police firing in Delhi yesterday.

Gandhi Demands Resignation of Prime Minister

BK2609104990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today demanded the immediate resignation of Prime Minister V.P. Singh. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said that such a move could only pave the way for reconciliation among conflicting sections of the people on the [job reservation] issue. Mr. Gandhi said justice for all sections could be assured if a more responsive government took over in order to restore peace and harmony among the people. He said the Congress-I will continue to extend constructive cooperation to such a government.

Mr. Gandhi's statement was released by the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, and former Union Minister Mr. Dinesh Singh. Answering questions, Mr. Dinesh Singh said if the Congress-I president's demand goes unheeded the party may think of consulting other parties on what should be done to meet the crisis, as he put it.

Seychelles President Arrives for Three-Day Visit

BK2409095990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The president of Seychelles, Mr. France Albert Rene, who arrived in the capital this morning on a three-day visit to India, called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] today. The two leaders discussed various subjects, including bilateral matters, the international situation, and the impact of the Gulf crisis. Mr. Venkataraman informed the visiting dignitary that the developments in the Gulf region have a serious impact on India's foreign exchange resources as a substantial portion of crude oil and petroleum products come from there.

Mr. Rene said that India being a leading nonaligned country should take up the cause of the tiny island nations which have also been affected by the Gulf crisis. Both the presidents were of the view that there is ample scope for further strengthening the existing ties between the two countries. The Seychelles president will have wide-ranging talks with the prime minister on subjects of mutual interests and on strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Our correspondent reports that the visit assumes special significance as the first meeting of the Indo-Seychelles joint commission begins in the capital this afternoon. The joint

commission was set up last year when President Mr. Venkataraman had visited the island nation. Our correspondent adds that there has been a significant increase in exports from India to Seychelles in the last three years. India is also likely to extend economic credits to Seychelles for developmental activities of the island.

Initiative To End Sri Lankan Fighting Urged

BK2509114390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Commentary by M.K. Ray: "Sri Lanka Today"]

[Text] India is deeply anguished over reports of large-scale loss of lives, civilian sufferings, and hundreds of thousands of people rendered homeless. Aerial attacks of heavily populated areas is a matter of concern, says the Government of India. It's sending of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] to Sri Lanka immeditely following the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement on 29 July 1987 can be termed a Himalayan blunder, to borrow a Gandhian expression. The statements made by I.K. Gujral, minister for external affairs, that the all-out offensive mounted by the Sri Lankan Army against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers Of Tamil Eelam] in north-eastern provinces is entirely an internal affair of that country, qualifies equally as a mistake of similar proportion. The mission of the IPKF was predictably doomed to failure for the simple reason that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement had been negotiated by the two governments without taking into confidence any of the Tamil groups, who were involved in the struggle for their basic rights as the citizens of Sri Lanka. Once the IPKF got involved physically in the conflict, as it was on the side of Sri Lankan security forces and against the LTTE instead of confining its role to keeping apart the two warring sides, whatever utility it may have had otherwise in keeping peace disappeared. The progress was downhill all the way from that very moment when it was eventually decided to withdraw the IPKF, and arrangements were completed for this by March 1990. Simple prudence would have dictated that the Government of India rebuild its relations with the LTTE notwithstanding the unsavory events of the past.

Even more regretable was the sudden indifference shown by India in neglecting to monitor developments in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka and to insist that the Sri Lankan Government should fulfill its obligations in terms of the agreement signed with the Government of India in July 1987.

On the other hand, the ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka have been systematically betrayed in regard to each and every assurance given to them of equal treatment from the time of the appoinment of the Soulbury Commission in 1944. They had been discriminated against on almost every front, including, in regard to government jobs, admission to institutions of higher learning, allotment of lands, and so on. The irritants and provocations which led to the latest eruption of the conflict for which the Sri Lankan Government can be held responsible includes the dissolution of the Northeastern Provincial Council, the holding of fresh provincial elections to constitute a new council, the annulling of the sixth amendment to the Constitution which requires members of Parliament to take an oath to abstain from any kind of secessionism by word or deed, and the halting of Sinhala colonization of land in the Northeastern Province, which could alter the democratic balance in favour of the Sinhalese.

As regards the Sri Lankan Government, the LTTE action in taking over the maintenance of law and order and administration of the Northeastern Province immediately after the IPKF withdrawal in the last week of March was found to be unacceptable.

Whatever may have been the relative merits of the positions taken by either side, the [word indistinct] of the conflict so close to India's borders is certainly not in the interest and it cannot afford to remain aloof or allow matters to get out of hand. The first step which India should insist on is that the fighting be strictly restricted to Sri Lankan security forces on the one hand and armed LTTE cadres on the other. Civilian rights and property must be protected. Efforts should be made to bring about a cease-fire as soon as possible. For this purpose, the National Front government has clearly better credentials than the government which preceeded it, and no time should be lost in taking the initiative with Colombo to stop the bloodbath immediately. India must and should take an initiative to involve the international community to bring about an everlasting peace in Sri Lanka.

Iran

Events Relating to Visit by Syria's Al-Asad

'Text' of Joint Communique

JN2509184090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1633 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, 25 Sep (SANA)—A joint statement was issued in both Damascus and Tehran this evening on the occasion of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following is the text:

On the basis of consultations and mutual coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with the aim of achieving qualitative progress in friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad paid an official and friendly visit to Iran at the invitation of Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani from 1 to 4 Rabi' al-Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22 to 25 September 1990 at the head of an official delegation comprising:

1. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian Arab Republic's vice president.
2. Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs.
3. Muhammad Harbah, minister of interior affairs.

4. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade.
5. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs.
6. Ahmad al-Hasan, Syrian ambassador to Iran.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his delegation visited the tomb of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After reciting the al-fatihah, the president placed a wreath of roses on the tomb of the late leader.

The president and his delegation also visited the holy city of Mashhad and the pure tomb of Imam Riza. His excellency and his delegation also met with Ayatollah 'Ali Khamane'i, leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

In an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual confidence and with the aim of achieving the higher national and Islamic interest, the two presidents held a series of important talks on promoting and further improving relations between the two countries. They also discussed various regional issues, other issues of common interest, topics of interest to the Islamic world, and developments in the international situation. The two sides had identical views on all these issues and stressed the need to strengthen the strategic and brotherly relations between the two countries.

The two presidents termed the level of relations between Iran and Syria in political, economic, educational, and scientific areas as positive; they also stressed the need to expand these growing relations in bilateral areas and to continue contacts at every level.

The two presidents based their discussions and analysis of various regional and international issues on the national interests of the region's peoples in light of Islam's noble principles and spiritual values, which should form a solid and predominant basis for relations among the Arab and Islamic states, taking into account every country's right to freedom, independence, and the exercise of sovereignty.

Believing in the long struggle of Third World nations, the two presidents stressed these nations' right to resist the various forms of colonialism and the need to confront Zionism, racism, and imperialism, as they pose danger to the material and spiritual values of the region's peoples. The two presidents also believe that the dangers threatening the region call for establishing the widest cooperation among these states in political, security, economic, and educational areas without foreign interference.

The two presidents based their discussions on settling disputes among states by peaceful means and resorting to force, which usually threatens security and stability, only if it is necessary to defend oneself and the homeland, for resisting aggression, and for liberating occupied territories and regaining usurped rights. They also based their discussions on the principle of the impermissibility of the acquisition of others' territory by force and the impermissibility of interference by any state in the internal affairs of other states.

The two presidents affirmed the need to work on the basis of the principles of international detente and the removal of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, since this has become a collective demand to safeguard mankind from a catastrophe threatening human existence.

1. Bilateral relations:
The two presidents had detailed discussions on bilateral relations based on their common view of the regional and international situation and on their firm and continuous concern for reinforcing these relations in the service of the common objectives of the two countries, the interests of the Arab and Islamic peoples, and the interests of Third World peoples.

The two presidents expressed their great satisfaction with the important development achieved in bilateral relations despite the difficult circumstances imposed on them. They believe that this development has yielded important and positive results because of the two countries' determination to remain side by side in confronting the various dangers and threats to which they are being exposed.

In light of their accurate analysis of the current stage and future potentials, and out of the need to push these relations to a new stage with comprehensive strategic dimensions that take into account all present and future circumstances and situations, the two presidents have agreed on forming a joint committee for coordinating and cooperating in all fields, co-chaired by the vice presidents with the two foreign ministers as members. The committee may seek assistance in its work from those it deems suitable in either of the two countries. The committee shall submit its results to the presidents. If important issues arise that require the adoption of a decision by the presidents of the republics, the committee shall meet in their presence.

The following agreements were signed between the two countries:
An agreement for scientific and technical cooperation; an agreement for cooperation between the central departments for planning in the two countries; an agreement on Syrian and Iranian contracting and construction companies in the two countries; an agreement on a joint Syrian-Iranian contracting company to implement plans in the two countries and in a third country; and an agreement for cooperation in combating crime and exchanging experience gained in police work.

2. Regional issues:
The two presidents discussed in a deep and comprehensive manner the situation in the region from its various aspects and assessed the dangers threatening Arabs and Muslims as a result of the explosive problems that place the region and its people before a painful, historic turning point. This requires that the two countries take on special responsibility in confronting this situation to preserve the future, security, and stability of the Arab and Islamic countries.

a. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait:
The two presidents discussed with concern the regional situation, particularly the recent developments in the Gulf. They also discussed the developments and events after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait; denounced the principle of aggression; condemned the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwait, considering it an act that has shaken security and stability in the region because it gave the necessary pretext for foreign presence in the region with the severe danger that this would constitute to peoples and countries of the region.

The two presidents believe that removing this danger from the region can be achieved by working to remove both the Iraqi aggression and the foreign presence. Within this context, the two presidents expressed the need for unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of that country's independence, national sovereignty, government, and territorial integrity in a way that will not allow the aggressive regime to obtain any gains as a result of this aggression.

The two presidents expressed their nonacceptance of any change in the political map of the region. They also expressed their conviction that any political initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis must be based on a complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait to remove the specter of conflict and war from the region.

b. Regional security:
The two sides affirmed the importance of strong cooperation between the Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are linked by ties of common history and Islamic values—a matter that reinforces the joint position of these countries to ensure their interests and safeguard their independence from any foreign interference.

In light of this, the two sides believe that establishing a regional security system with the participation of the region's states is the best and most successful solution for providing security and stability for the region's states and peoples, taking into consideration that this will constitute an important step toward expanding and deepening cooperation among the region's states and strengthening the spirit of Islamic and Arab brotherhood in confronting suspect schemes.

c. The Iraqi-Iranian situation.
The two presidents reviewed the recent developments of the current situation between Iraq and Iran aimed at ending a decade of war and bloodshed. The Syrian side supported the Iranian position calling for separating the settlement of Iraqi-Iranian differences from the Gulf crisis that resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Syrian president voiced his satisfaction with the results and agreements reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq.

The Iranian side expressed its high appraisal of and gratitude for the positions the Syrian Arab Republic has taken on the Iraq- Iran war from the very beginning, and Syria's continuous efforts to prevent the spread of this war. Subsequent events have vindicated the principled nature and soundness of these stands.

d. The Lebanese situation:
The two sides reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon and expressed their rejection of any attempts aimed at fragmenting and dividing Lebanon. The two presidents reaffirmed their full support for Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity, stressing the need to close the Lebanese file after long years of instability, bloodshed, and internecine fighting. The two presidents expressed their regret at the continuation of the bloody clashes between the Lebanese brothers, which have caused great human and material losses. The two sides praised the sacrifices made by the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic resistance to expel the Zionist invasion forces from Lebanese territory, and reiterated their continued support for this resistance until the last inch of Lebanese territory is liberated.

e. The Palestinian cause and the struggle against Zionism:
The problem of the struggle against the Israeli enemy occupied an important part of the discussions in light of current developments, extensive Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, and the Israeli entity's insistence on continuing aggression and occupying the Palestinian Arab territory by force.

The two presidents reached the clear conclusion that the changing and irresponsible policy of some Palestinian sides have complicated the situation in a serious manner.

The two presidents emphasized the continuation of the struggle of the two countries to ensure the restoration of all the occupied territories—foremost of which is Holy Jerusalem—and guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights, including their right to return to their occupied Palestinian homeland and their right to self-determination.

The two presidents expressed their extreme concern over the process of mass Jewish emigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, an emigration which regrettably is being supported by some states, especially the United States of America. They strongly condemned this mass emigration, and warned of its serious results and negative effects.

The views of the two sides were in agreement that this emigration will encourage the Zionist entity to hold fast to its occupation of the Arab territory and prompt it to occupy more Arab land to absorb the new immigrants.

The two sides appealed to the Islamic, Arab, and nonaligned states to pay serious, careful attention to the Palestinian problem—because it is the first cause of the Islamic and Arab worlds—and not to allow the Gulf crisis to be a reason for weakening concern over the dangers of the Zionist enemy's expansionist policy and repressive measures.

In this regard, the Iranian side emphasized its full support for the Syrian Arab Republic and its sovereignty

over the Golan Heights, and appreciated Syria's militant role in confronting the Zionist enemy.

The two sides voiced their comprehensive support for the just struggle of the heroic Palestinian intifadah, the nationalist and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon, and the resistance and steadfastness of the Syrian Arab people in the Golan against the Zionist occupation. They appealed to all states and peoples that defend freedom and peace to support this intifadah and condemn the Israeli occupation authorities for their savage crimes and repressive measures against the people in the occupied territory—measures that violate the simplest international rules and conventions.

3. The international situation:
The two presidents discussed current international developments and their possible consequences to Third World countries and peoples. They voiced their concern over the continuing schism between the advanced states and the Third World states, the continuation of the former's control over the latter's resources and economies, and the placing of obstacles before the realization of economic and social progress in the Third World that would help strengthen the national independence of these countries.

The two presidents affirmed the importance of the major role played by the Nonaligned Movement in the international arena, especially in view of the current changes in the post-cold war era. They agreed that it is necessary to work to strengthen and support the movement so it can play its natural and effective role in the international arena and become more capable of defending peoples' rights to independence, liberation, and their rejection of all forms of subservience and colonialist hegemony.

The two presidents noted that an urgent need has arisen for studying the status of the Nonaligned Movement in view of the international changes in a manner that leads to the formation of a broad world front that will work for serious growth in the economies of the Third World states based on a program of cooperation among them. They noted that work should start to establish a world fund for the development of poor nations. Advanced rich nations should contribute to the financing of this fund.

The two presidents expressed support for the current process of ending the state of hostility and the cold war in the international arena in light of recent international developments. They expressed the hope that the new international order will achieve further independence for nations of the world so that mankind could follow a sound path toward development and prosperity. They called on all countries struggling for liberation to be vigilant against negative repercussions that may result from these developments. They welcomed efforts to avert the danger of nuclear war and the continuous efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons.

The two presidents discussed the latest developments in South Africa and the struggle against the policy of racial discrimination. They declared full support for the struggle of peoples who continue to suffer from this policy in South Africa. They extend congratulations to the people and government of Namibia on its independence, which it obtained as a result of its heroic struggle against and resistance to racial discrimination.

The two sides reviewed the situation in Afghanistan and affirmed their support for its independence, nonalignment, Islamic identity, and its people's right to self-determination without foreign intervention.

President Hafiz al-Asad praised the important Islamic and national achievements realized by the wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni and His Eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed extreme appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad's prominent and important role, his struggle against the Zionist enemy, and his constant support for the objectives of the Palestine question. His excellency also praised Syria's policy under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed thanks and gratitude for the brotherly hospitality accorded to him and the accompanying delegation. He extended an invitation to President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit the Syrian Arab Republic. The invitation has been accepted with thanks and its date will be fixed later.

Presidents Comment on Talks

LD2509162990 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Iran and Syria discussed ways for further activation and promotion of mutual ties, and reached some new agreements during their lengthy talks here, President Hafiz al-Asad said today.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President al-Asad said the two countries reviewed the situation in the Persian Gulf and Kuwait and its repercussions. "We completely agree that the invasion and presence of the foreigners should be eliminated," he further said.

"The two countries' positions are the same and we will cooperate and work together to correct what we believe is incorrect in the region," President al-Asad said.

He said heads of the two governments also discussed the issue of Lebanon. "We will continue our support for Lebanon, and endeavour for restoration of the country's independence," he said.

Referring to the disputes between Arabs and the Zionist regime, President al-Asad said "Syria and Iran follow the same known traditional path."

He noted without elaboration that "there were also some other issues that we discussed." He said in brief; "We

had no differences on any issue, and the talks marked a turning point in relations between the two countries."

Asked to comment about some news agency reports that his Tehran visit had been extended due to some difference of opinions with Iran, President al-Asad replied: "It is the contrary. Actually, the friendly atmosphere and the extensive scope of the topics under discussion required that we allot more time to them," President al-Asad said.

President Rafsanjani termed al-Asad's visit to Tehran as "successful" and was happy both with its timing and the way it was conducted. "Necessary agreements were reached on all the issues, and in the course of the talks there was no point of difference to require much discussion," he pointed out.

"Yesterday Mr. Hafiz al-Asad proposed to raise a point of difference just for the sake of the reporters, but we didn't find any," President Rafsanjani said.

Praising Syria's support for Iran during the war with Iraq, Rafsanjani said "Mr. al-Asad had a 13-hour meeting with Saddam during the Arab summit, and a non-stop 13-hour meeting reflects its importance to me. Mr. al-Asad also had an eight-hour meeting with Arab lawyers, all of whom insisted that Syria should back Saddam for the cause of Arabism, but Mr. al-Asad told them that he was defending justice and a state (Iran) which called for Islam...This position (of Syria) and (its) resistance is very valuable for us."

"Another point which brought us very close together is the Syrian resistance against the Zionist regime," he said.

President Rafsanjani described Syria as "the only country bordering Israel, which confronted the Zionist expansionism," and said Syria's position and efforts on Lebanon and against the colonialists and Zionists are "very precious".

Elsewhere President Rafsanjani noted that the two countries' stances concerning the Persian Gulf crisis fully correspond with each other. "In addition to the formal negotiations, we had private talks for ten hours, and the prolongation of the talks was because of the importance of the Persian Gulf issue," he said.

He added the two countries reviewed all the assumptions concerning the outcome of this (Persian Gulf) crisis, and adopted a joint stand.

The president listed the assumptions as being the prolongation of the blockade and tension, Iraq's submission, weakening the anti-Iraqi front, as well as the occurrence of a full-scale war, and the Zionist regime's interference in the regional issues.

"On all these cases we adopted a joint position, and decided what stance we should take regarding any of these assumptions."

The president said the two countries also set up a commission at the level of the first vice-presidents to decide on the mutual cooperation. The two presidents would also attend the session of the commission if necessary.

Rafsanjani said the safeguarding of Lebanon's unity and paying attention to the votes of the majority of the people were among other topics on which the two sides reached agreement.

Noting that Iran and Syria inked agreements on various grounds of cooperation, Rafsanjani expressed hope that other Islamic countries would back the interests of Islam and their people as Iran and Syria do.

A reporter asked if Iran and Syria held a similar view concerning the presence of foreign forces in the region, to which president al-Asad gave a positive response.

Further elaborating, al-Asad said he believed that the children of the region were ultimately responsible for the regional security and stability, and that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had prompted the presence of these forces in the region.

"Therefore we cannot forgive the one responsible for the presence of the foreign forces in the area. We neither want aggression nor presence of the foreign forces. We should be realistic," President al-Asad remarks.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, President al-Asad said; "We always said that this war should be stopped, and a firm friendship be forged between Arabs and Iran."

"This is good both for Iran and Arabs and for the interests in which the Arabs believe, and Arab-Iranian relations can serve as a model for other Muslims in the world," he added.

He also expressed pleasure over the cessation of the hostilities, and said "I hope that with the establishment of a joint Arab-Iranian front and an Islamic front, we would be able to defend our wills."

Asked whether the substitution of a regional force with the foreign forces had been discussed in the Tehran talks, and if so what was the Iranian position, President Rafsanjani said the two countries had reached a "specific decision" in this regard, but he did not provide further details.

In response to another question if al-Asad carried any message from Washington for Tehran, Rafsanjani said while smiling: "The Americans cannot be so rude to send their message for us through Mr. Hafiz al-Asad. We have a lot of (other) things to talk about."

Asked if U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent visit to Syria had been reflected in the Iran-Syria talks, Rafsanjani said al-Asad had only informed him of his talks with Baker, and that it had nothing to do with the Tehran talks.

Al-Asad Discusses Visit, Departs

LD2509121490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who came to our country heading a high-ranking political-economic delegation at the official invitation of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left our country for Syria this afternoon.

He was officially seen off by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a number of cabinet members, military and state officials, and foreign ambassadors and charge d'affaires based in Tehran.

Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, in an interview with the reporter from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, termed the outcome of his visit good and extremely favorable. He added: All the meetings were held in a friendly atmosphere, and I doubt we left any issues related to the region uncovered in our discussions. My meetings with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, were prodigious and productive. Also, a spirit of friendliness dominated my meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, in which we discussed bilateral issues.

In the interview he remarked that in his meetings with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the situation in the Persian Gulf, Lebanon, and the Iraqi onslaught against Kuwait were discussed, on all of which they were in total agreement. He said: The foreign presence in the region should be eliminated, and we will employ all our capability towards freeing Lebanon from the agony it is suffering.

The Syrian president added: In our talks, we discussed the Arab-Israel conflict, and I should point out that altogether we were in total agreement and had no arguments over any of the issues discussed. This visit will have positive and significant impact on the relations between the two countries. I expect to see Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Syria.

Regarding the reason for the extension of his visit, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad said: The visit was extended since there were numerous and extensive issues to be discussed with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for which longer time was required.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: This visit took place at a very good time, and there were no issues on which we did not reach agreement. The gentlemen were aware of our stances, and the visit was successful. It was interesting that in the course of the discussions we did not arrive at any points of disagreement which demanded lengthy arguments.

Continuing the interview, the President added: We remember how during the war, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad refused to leave our side in spite of calls on him to do so because he was an Arab. In one of my discussions with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, he said that a few years ago he held a 13-hour meeting with the president of Iraq at the Arab summit conference, as well as an eight-hour meeting with Arab jurists in that connection, all of whom insisted that he should support Saddam. But he refused and said: We support justice; Iran was not the one who started the war, but the one who issued a call of adherence to Islam. We are Muslims, and to us this is very precious. Everyone knows that they were sincerely and courageously defending justice throughout the war. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Another point I should note is the Syrian resistance against Israel. Syria is the only country to stand in Israel's way, and there are no other barriers to Israel's expansionist desires in the region. We consider Syria's efforts in Lebanon as valuable.

In the interview, the president of our country addressed the reporters, saying: It is interesting for you to know that our stand on the Persian Gulf crisis is totally compatible with that of Syria. I held ten hours of private talks with his excellency. The talks were prolonged because the issues related to the Persian Gulf situation were numerous and of much importance. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: If we assume that the conditions in the region remain as they are, or that Iraq is defeated, or that the side opposing Iraq is weakened, or that a war breaks out, or that Israel interferes in the region, we have common stands on all such assumptions which indicate which actions we should take.

At the conclusion of this interview, the president of our country said: On the whole, I consider this visit to have been successful and auspicious. I hope the other Islamic countries will also act likewise so as to defend the principles and interests of Islam.

Prior to the Syrian President's departure, an agreement of understanding was signed between the two countries. On the basis of this agreement, Iran and Syria will cooperate on long-term economic, commercial, scientific, and cultural projects. Also according to that agreement, the central planning apparatuses and organizations of the two countries should cooperate, and joint contractual companies should be set up to implement various projects.

Call for Worldwide Anti-U.S. Demonstration

LD2509185990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] In a published statement, the Islamic Publicity Organization has invited the great Islamic ummah [communities] throughout the globe to participate in the great "in step with the leadership" demonstration to pledge their continuation of the relentless struggle against the United States and voice their disapproval of the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf.

In Tehran, this demonstration will take place at the meeting place of the lovers of Allah, Tehran University, next Friday [28 September]. The Islamic Publicity Oranization, addressing the Muslims of the world, added: Has the time not arrived for the Muslims of the

world to awake from their lethargy? Should they continue to witness the contempt, loss of prestige, and the plunder of their God-given resources?

The Islamic Publicity Organization concluded: To implement the fine points of the views of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], the Islamic ummah will once again raise the flag of struggle against the aggressive United States and its usurping lackeys in a spirit of unity and revolutionary fervor in the region. They will not cease for a moment until the last mercenary has been thrown out and the Islamic lands completely liberated.

Khomeyni Says No Pro-Western Faction in Country

LD2509175690 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 25, IRNA—No Westoxicated [as received] group exists in the Islamic Republic said Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeini Monday [24 September] and dismissed claims of the so-called moderate or pro-Western faction as "enemies' propaganda to undermine the revolution and the Islamic system."

Addressing a group of homecoming prisoners of war at the shrine of his great father Imam Khomeyni, the Hojjat ol-Eslam also spelled out Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent intrusion of outside forces in the area.

"We strongly oppose any form of meddlings by Western forces in the Persian Gulf", he made it clear.

"We firmly believe" added Hoj. Khomeyni "the West cannot determine the fate of the region as long as regional Muslims are present on the scene to solve their own problems."

IRGC Commander Says U.S. Plundering Wealth

LD2509092990 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Kerman, Sept. 25, IRNA—Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rezaei said here Monday [24 September] that the U.S. by fortifying its positions in the Persian Gulf region is attempting to gain control of the regional countries and plunder wealth of the Muslim nations.

Addressing the first gathering of more than 1,200 recently freed war prisoners of the province as well as the families of the martyrs, those missing in the action and war invalids, Rezaei stressed the need for further strengthening the military and popular forces and promoting their preparedness with the aim to preserve the revolution's values and principles.

He also said that Iraq's full acceptance of Iran's terms for peace proved rightfulness of Iran to the world and the Muslim nations realized that the war had been imposed on the Islamic Republic.

On the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the IRGC commander said that the current trend of events in the Persian Gulf may lead to a war of an unprecedented magnitude.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Departs for Two-Day Gulf Visit

BK2609091790 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, left Islamabad for Oman at the beginning of his two-day visit that will also take him to Qatar and Dubayy. Before his departure, he said during his talks with the leaders of these countries, they will review bilateral relations and regional developments. He said he will express Pakistan's deep concern over the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and solidarity with the fraternal state. The prime minister said he would also brief them on the situation in South Asia, particularly that arising from the suppression of indigenous and spontaneous uprising of the people of occupied Kashmir.

Bhutto's Husband Ordered To Appear in Court

BK2609010890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2039 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 25 (AFP)—The husband of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been ordered to appear in court next month in connection with an unlawful bank loan, court sources said.

The court, which has been specially set up to try banking offences, on Tuesday [25 September] issued the October 9 court summons to Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, the sources said.

It has also issued summonses to others in connection with the unlawful granting of a loan by the Habib Bank when Ms. Bhutto's administration was in power, the sources said.

There are over a dozen such cases pending in the court, some of them implicating Mr. Zardari, the sources said.

Meanwhile, a case against Ms. Bhutto's father-in-law, Hakim Ali Zardari, was filed Tuesday in a special court in Lahore, capital of Punjab province, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said.

The elder Zardari, who is in London, has been accused of making false statement and signing an indemnity bond to obtain 2.4 [word indistinct] rupees (109,000 dollars) from the state oil company to set up a firm.

If found guilty, he could be banned from politics for seven years.

Ms. Bhutto, her husband, father-in-law and mother are all prospective candidates in the elections scheduled for October 24.

Case Filed Against Bhutto's Father-in-Law

BK2509164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Three presidential references against the former chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Hakim Ali Zardari [Bhutto's father-in-law], and ex-MNA's [members of National Assembly], Mr. Mohammad Mumtaz Khan Bhabha and Mirza Mohammad Nasir Beg, were submitted to the registrar of the special court by the counsel of the referring to the authority in Lahore today.

The special court of Mr. Justice Munir A. Shaikh will begin the preliminary scrutiny of the reference against Mr. Hakim Ali Zardari on the 1st of next month. The charge against him is that while acting in his personal capacity, he had made false statement and signed an indemnity bond to receive an amount of 24 lakh rupees to establish a tourist resort.

The preliminary scrutiny of the charges against Mr. Mohammad Mumtaz Khan Bhabha will be held in the special court of Mr. Justice Munir A. Shaikh on Sunday [30 September] on the charge that he had misused the fund of People's Program as its administrator.

The preliminary scrutiny of the reference against Mirza Mohammad Nasir Beg will be held on Saturday [29 September] in the special court of Mr. Justice Rashid Aziz Khan. The charge leveled against him is that he had acquired loan of 3.2 million rupees from the IDBP [Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan] and subsequently misused it.

Court Nullifies Dissolution of NWFP Assembly

BK2609052690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0506 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Peshawar, Sept 26 (AFP)—A high court here Wednesday [26 September] declared the dissolution of the provincial assembly in the Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP] illegal and ordered the restoration of the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) government there.

In announcing its verdict on a petition challenging the governor's August 6 order dissolving the assembly, the court said both the assembly and the former government were restored.

The petition was filed by former Chief Minister Aftab Ahmed Herpao who was dismissed by the governor after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Benazir Bhutto from the office of prime minister on August 6 accusing her PPP government of massive corruption and the mismanagement of state affairs.

Seven Killed, 14 Hurt in Explosion Near Sialkot

BK2609142290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Seven persons were killed and 14 injured in an explosion in a wagon at (Gunagana), about 12 km from Sialkot, today. The wagon was coming from Shakargarh to Sialkot when the explosion occurred. Four of the injured are reported to be in serious condition. All of the injured have been admitted to Allama Iqbal Hospital in Sialkot. Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has expressed profound grief over the loss of lives and sympathy with those injured in the incident.